



Bloomberg entry into presidential race raises ethics issues

By DAVID BAUDER
RACHEL LERMAN
AP Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — With Michael Bloomberg now running for president, the news service that bears his name said Sunday it will not "investigate" him or any of his Democratic rivals, and Bloomberg Opinion will no longer run unsigned editorials. Bloomberg Editor-in-Chief John Micklethwait announced the new rules in a

note to his news organization's 2,700 journalists and analysts Sunday, shortly after the former New York City mayor announced his candidacy. "There is no point in trying to claim that covering this presidential campaign will be easy for a newsroom that has built up its reputation for independence in part by not writing about ourselves," Micklethwait wrote.

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In this July 27, 2016, file photo, former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg speaks during the third day of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

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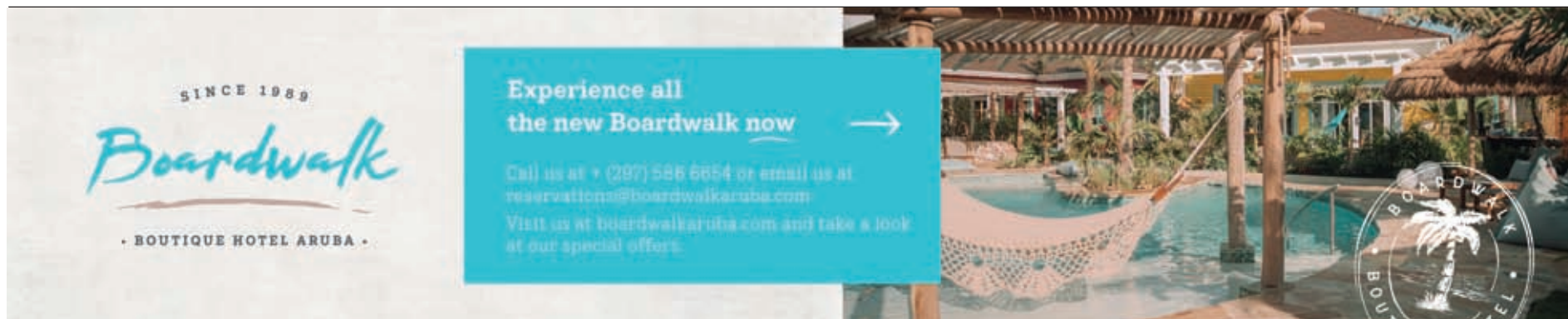
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Continued from Front

Bloomberg started his news service in 1990 to complement the financial information he sold to customers. It has since expanded, with its news available in many formats, including a television and radio network and Bloomberg Businessweek magazine.

The entry of Bloomberg into the presidential race also raises potential conflict-of-interest questions involving his extensive business holdings, which go well beyond his news service. Bloomberg's businesses, which include selling financial data services, employ more than 19,000 people in 69 countries.

Experts say those holdings could create financial conflicts stemming from Bloomberg's policy positions, both domestic and foreign, unless he takes decisive action to formally remove himself from his businesses.

"We want people to have confidence that folks in government, including the president, are acting out of a sense of concern for the public interest, not the vision of what their private interests are," said Kathleen Clark, a law professor at Washington University in St. Louis who focuses on legal and government ethics.

Every president since Jimmy Carter has acted to sell assets that could create conflicts of interest, Clark said — except President Donald Trump, who has provoked broad criticism for remaining financially connected to his businesses.

Senior advisers for Bloomberg did not immediately answer questions Sunday about whether he would create a firewall of some sort between himself and his many entities, including his foundation based in Manhattan.

When asked about potential conflicts of interest when he was considering

a run earlier in the year, Bloomberg had pledged to "separate myself" from his foundation and private businesses should he launch a campaign. On Sunday, though, it was unclear whether he was still committed to doing so and how specifically he might separate himself from his many business interests.

At his news service, Mickelthwait said, Bloomberg reporters will still cover polls, policies and how the Bloomberg campaign is faring, much as it does for all candidates. But it will not do investigative stories on Bloomberg — or, to be fair, on any of the other Democratic contenders. It will continue to investigate the Trump administration, however, he said. Mickelthwait noted that the situation is different because Trump is already president and so the work of his administration is fair game.

If other credible news organizations do investigative stories on Bloomberg or other Democrats, the news service will summarize them or publish them in full, he said.

"We will not hide them," Mickelthwait said.

To anyone who thinks the news service shouldn't cover Bloomberg at all, he said Bloomberg News "has handled these conflicts before — and proved our independence."

The situation presents an ethical tightrope. When Bloomberg was considering a candidacy in 2016, the news service's politics news director in Washington, Kathy Kiely, quit and said she did not feel she could do her job without covering Bloomberg aggressively.

Kiely said Sunday that the new rules "relegate his political writers to stenography journalism ... it's not satisfying for journalists and it's not satisfying for readers. I think

people will go elsewhere for in-depth political coverage."

Kiely said Michael Bloomberg should step completely away from his news organization and let it operate independently. Instead, he's undermining the news organization "he worked so hard and spent so much money to build up."

It's good that the news service has a structure in place to consider issues as they arise, said Kelly McBride, senior vice president at Poynter and chair of the Craig Newmark Center for Ethics and Leadership. But every day they will have to consider tough decisions about how to cover the candidacy, she said.

"I can't imagine that they're not going to have to deal with the temptation of self-censorship," she said.

The Bloomberg Opinion service will no longer carry unsigned editorials, since they usually reflected Bloomberg's point of view. It will continue to run opinions by columnists and some columns from outsiders, although none of the latter will be about the campaign.

David Shipley, who has overseen Bloomberg Opinion as its senior executive editor, is leaving to join the campaign, Mickelthwait said. Some other members of the editorial board will also take leaves of absence, he said.

Chief Content Officer Marty Schenker has been asked to oversee the campaign coverage.

"This is a structure that can cope with many eventualities," Mickelthwait wrote. "No doubt, many of you are already thinking of possible complexities that may raise. My response is: let's get back to work. We can spend a long time debating 'what ifs.' I would rather that we got on with the journalism and let the work



In this Nov. 30, 2018 file photo, former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg speaks with members of the media at The Bridge Way School in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

speak for itself."

Regarding his business interests, Bloomberg should make a clear decision right away, said Richard Painter, a professor at University of Minnesota Law School. Painter served as chief White House lawyer for ethics under President George W. Bush from 2005 to 2007. Bloomberg should divest heavily from his businesses, Painter said.

"He needs to pledge that if he's elected president, basically all his companies get sold," he said, adding that should include changing the governance of Bloomberg's charitable foundation.

It's a different conversation than when he served as mayor of New York, Painter said. "The mayor of New York doesn't regulate the financial industry," he said. □

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Pentagon chief fires Navy secretary over SEAL controversy

By **ROBERT BURNS**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Mark Esper on Sunday fired the Navy's top official for allegedly proposing a deal with the White House behind Esper's back to resolve the matter of a Navy SEAL whose case has been championed by President Donald Trump. At Esper's request, Navy Secretary Richard Spencer submitted his resignation Sunday, said the chief spokesman for the Pentagon, Jonathan Hoffman. The firing was a dramatic turn in a fast-changing and

politically charged controversy involving Navy Chief Petty Officer Edward Gallagher. On Wednesday the Navy had notified Gallagher that he would face a Navy SEAL review board to determine if he should be allowed to remain in the elite force. Gallagher was acquitted of a murder charge in the stabbing death of an Islamic State militant captive, but a military jury convicted him of posing with the corpse while in Iraq in 2017. He was demoted from chief petty officer to a 1st

class petty officer. Trump this month restored Gallagher's rank. In a statement issued by Hoffman, Esper said he had lost "trust and confidence" in Spencer after learning that the Navy secretary had "privately" proposed to the White House to allow Gallagher to retire in his current rank and without losing his status as a SEAL. Esper said that in previous conversations with Spencer about the Gallagher matter, Spencer had not told Esper of his proposal to the White House. □





In a Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 file photo, U.S. Navy Secretary Richard Spencer speaks at a news conference as he pays his first visit to Bath Iron Works, a shipbuilding facility in Bath, Maine.

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5 states drag feet on creation of panels to promote Census

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — With billions in federal aid and seats in Congress at stake, some states are dragging their feet in carrying out one of the Census Bureau's chief recommendations for making sure everyone is counted during the 2020 census.

Five states — Florida, Louisiana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Texas — have not set up "complete count committees" that would create public awareness campaigns to encourage people to fill out the questionnaires.

In some of those states, politicians argued that a statewide body would be unnecessary, since local committees, cities and nonprofit organizations are already working to publicize the census. In others, state leaders didn't see any urgency to act.

The once-a-decade count of the U.S. population starts in January in a remote area of Alaska. The rest of the nation takes part starting in the spring.

"We are encouraging others to join in," Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham



This April 23, 2019, file photo shows the Florida Capitol in Tallahassee, Fla.

said this month. "The clock is ticking, and the time to join is now."

Six states — Iowa, Maine, Tennessee, Vermont, West Virginia and Wisconsin — only got on board in the past several weeks.

Officials say the committees can separate census winners from losers.

"Complete count committees are extremely effective," said Albert Fontenot, an associate director at the Census Bureau. "It's in the states' interests in that they get a funding flow and congressional seats."

Of the holdout states, all but Louisiana have Republican governors.

In Texas, a measure to create a committee died in the GOP-dominated Legislature earlier this year even

though the second most populous state has the most to gain from the census — up to three congressional seats.

Some Texas lawmakers were worried about losing their seats during redistricting if population surges favoring Democrats were found in urban and suburban areas, said Luis Figueroa, legislative and policy director at the Center for Public Policy Priorities in Austin.

Also, at the time, the Trump administration was pushing to add a citizenship question to the form, and some lawmakers didn't want to take a stand on the issue by promoting the census, he said. The U.S. Supreme Court later blocked the question.

Twenty-six state governments are appropriating nearly \$350 million to reach people and get them to respond to the census. The amounts range from California's record \$187 million to Montana's \$100,000, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. New York City is committing \$40 million.

States led by Democrats have spent more per capita. Of the 11 states spending at least \$1 per resident, all but North Dakota have Democratic governors, according to an Associated Press analysis.

California, which stands to lose a seat in Congress, is spending \$4.73 per person, using the money to target certain ethnic communities, provide educational materials to schools and identify community leaders who can personally encourage participation in the most populous state. □

Associated Press

Explosion at Dippin' Dots production facility injures 4

PADUCAH, Ky. (AP) — Authorities say an explosion at the Dippin' Dots production facility in Kentucky has injured four people.

Dippin' Dots CEO Scott Fischer says the explosion occurred in a production area around 10 p.m. Friday evening. Fischer said in a release that it would be premature to comment on the cause of the blast.

"At this moment what is most important to us is our employees, especially our four team members who were injured last night," Fischer said.

Paducah city spokeswoman Pam Spencer said the plant had a nitrogen leak, but it was unclear whether that leak caused the explosion or happened af-

terward. Nitrogen is used to flash-freeze Dippin' Dots novelty ice cream.

All four people injured were hospitalized. WPSD-TV reported that one of the injured workers was released from the hospital early Saturday morning.

At one point employees were not being allowed inside the building after the incident because the oxygen level was too low, the power was shut off and smoke remained inside.

Along with firefighters, personnel from Atmos Energy, Jackson Purchase Energy Corporation and Paducah Water were at the scene. Dippin' Dots is headquartered in Paducah, a western Kentucky city near the Illinois state line. □

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'My neighbors are gone': Flood buyouts upend Missouri town

By DAVID A. LIEB
Associated Press

MOSBY, Mo. (AP) — Tammy Kilgore raised the giant claw of a John Deere excavator high in the air, then slammed it down on the roof the house where she had spent nearly her entire adult life.

The shingles crunched, but not much else. So she did it again, and again — each time taking a bigger bite with the mouth-like claw, until the roof above her bedroom caved. Lumber and siding fell to the ground.

"Oh, my goodness!" she exclaimed.

The machine's operator had given Kilgore the chance to start demolishing her own home. It's one of dozens of flood-prone houses being torn down in this small riverside town northeast of Kansas City under a federally funded buyout program intended to reduce the risks and costs from future flooding.

The city of Mosby estimates it's faced 40 floods of varying severity over the past two decades, and Kilgore has lost count of the number of times her home got wet.

"Every time it would come up, it would probably ruin our floors," she recalled. "We just got tired of it."

When the voluntary buyouts are complete, nearly half of Mosby will be gone, leaving a patchwork of holdout homes and bare lots.

Similar buyout programs have played out in numerous communities ravaged by floods and hurricanes. Over the past three decades, federal and local governments have spent more than \$5 billion to buy tens of thousands of vulnerable properties across the U.S., according to an Associated Press analysis.

While buyouts can be emotionally fraught for communities, they can lessen future flood-related costs by demolishing homes that could otherwise keep receiving federal disaster aid or taxpayer-subsidized flood insurance.

This year's devastating



In this photo taken Monday, Nov. 18, 2019, Betty Cazzell watches from her adjacent fence line while her neighbor, Tammy Kilgore's home is demolished in Mosby, Mo.

Associated Press

flooding in the Midwest, which caused billions of dollars of damage in more than a dozen states, is likely to lead to more home buyouts.

In Iowa, for example, a dozen cities and counties have inquired about the potential of buying out as many as 660 properties. In the future, more buyouts could be necessary nationwide as climate change leads to rising seas and more frequent and intense rainstorms.

For those facing buyouts, the process can be both a blessing and curse. It can provide a fresh start for flood-weary residents who choose to leave but also sever a sense of community for those left behind.

And the process can be stressful: Kilgore, 56, suffered a heart attack in September after a long day of packing. But she was back in town on a cool November morning to watch her old house come down.

As Kilgore climbed into the excavator, longtime neighbor Betty Cazzell watched somberly from across the chain-link fence where the two would often chat. Cazzell, 86, opted against applying for a buyout. She didn't want the hassle of leaving a town where she spent all but 10 years of her life.

"I've seen some changes,

but they've been kind of gradual," Cazzell said sadly. "This is kind of like a bomb exploding or something — it's just all at once, and my neighbors are gone."

When the demolitions are done, the houses on either side of Cazzell's will be gone.

Her granddaughter a few doors down is staying, but her son and daughter-in-law are leaving. Their white wooden house is marked with a bright orange "D2" — code for "Demolition Phase Two," the same thing that was painted on Kilgore's home.

The 2010 census counted 190 people in Mosby. But that seems generous these days.

Mosby began as a railroad town in 1887 nestled along the Fishing River, a tributary of the Missouri River. It grew as coal mining took hold in the first half of the next century. At one point, it had a school, bank and grocery store, but all have since closed.

The old school — with a dozen-plus basketball trophies still on display — is now City Hall.

The remaining businesses — an asphalt plant, quarry, lumber center, trucking company and gas station — are all on the edge of town along a highway.

Financial strains led Mosby to disband its police

department in 2015. That same year, the town was flooded three times in less than six weeks. Town officials decided in 2016 to apply to the state for a nearly \$3 million buyout funded largely through the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

About 50 homeowners said they were interested. It took until this summer before they received buyout offers, and about two-thirds have taken the deal.

But for some, such as 83-year-old Elmer Sullivan, the offer just wasn't enough to afford a house somewhere else.

Sullivan was offered \$20,000 for the modest home that he said he bought for \$17,000 three decades ago. Since then, he put on a new roof and siding and spent \$4,000 rebuilding a garage.

"This is ridiculous. This offer here ain't no good," Sullivan said, holding the buyout documents. "My wife, she passed away seven years ago. She helped me buy the house, and if I would have sold the house, I'd feel like I let her down."

Milton and Sally Denney took the buyout for her mother's old house, which had sat vacant since her death several years ago. But Milton said they turned down a \$65,000 offer for their own home because it

was "nowhere near enough money."

The Denneys built their house in 1978 with more foresight than most. Its floor is about 4 feet above-ground — just high enough to stay dry during the floods that have repeatedly encircled the house.

For 65-year-old Sally Denney, who's spent her whole life in Mosby, the buyouts have stirred a sense of disbelief, anger, frustration and fear that her beloved town could eventually be gone.

"I don't know that it's really all sunk in yet," she said. But "it's gonna hit, and it's gonna be very sad."

Mosby's revenue is likely to shrink as properties once on the tax rolls become empty plots owned by the city, Mayor Harlin Clements said. The terms of the buyouts prohibit future development.

Though buyouts are disruptive, the U.S. saves \$7 in avoided costs for every \$1 spent through the federally funded grants to acquire or demolish flood-prone buildings, according to a study for the National Institute of Building Sciences.

"I can tell you — mitigation works, it's very successful. It saves the pain and anguish of people that get flooded," former FEMA Administrator James Lee Witt said during a recent session hosted by The Pew Charitable Trusts on ways to reduce local flood risks.

Like most who take buyouts, the former residents of Mosby are now scattered. Some have moved to Excelsior Springs, a city of more than 11,000 immediately east. Others have gone west, toward the Kansas City suburbs. Still others moved into a rural area a few miles north.

When Tammy and James Kilgore moved out, they took some pine boards from their porch, a mailbox, a flagpole and plants from their yard. Scavengers quickly swooped in to swipe their furnace, air conditioner and dishwasher. Someone even ripped out the kitchen sink and all the pipes running to it. □

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Official says White House gave Navy go-ahead on Gallagher

By **ROBERT BURNS**
ROB GILLIES
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Navy has been notified that the White House will not intervene to stop a disciplinary proceeding that could cost a SEAL his position in the elite unit, a senior Navy official said Sunday. Although President Donald Trump had tweeted on Thursday that he would not let the Navy remove Chief Petty Officer Edward Gallagher from the SEALs, the Navy was given White House guidance on Friday that it can proceed as planned, the Navy official said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal matters.

This would seem to have defused a conflict between the president and Navy leaders, although it remained possible that Trump could still use his authority as commander in chief to intervene in the volatile and politically



In this July 2, 2019, file photo, Navy Special Operations Chief Edward Gallagher leaves a military court on Naval Base San Diego.

Associated Press

charged Gallagher case, despite assurances received by the Navy. Navy Secretary Richard Spencer said Saturday at

an international security forum in Halifax, Nova Scotia, that he did not consider a tweet by Trump an order and would need a formal

order to stop the Navy review board, scheduled to begin Dec. 2, that would determine whether Gallagher is allowed to remain in

the SEALs.

"I need a formal order to act," Spencer said. Of Trump's tweets, "I don't interpret them as a formal order."

Trump tweeted Thursday that the Navy "will NOT be taking away Warfighter and Navy SEAL Eddie Gallagher's Trident Pin," inserting himself into the ongoing legal review of the sailor's ability to hold onto the pin that designates him a SEAL. The Navy on Wednesday had notified Gallagher that he will face the review board to determine if he should remain on the elite force.

Gallagher was acquitted of a murder charge in the stabbing death of an Islamic State militant captive, but a military jury convicted him of posing with the corpse while in Iraq in 2017. He was demoted from chief petty officer to a 1st class petty officer. Trump this month restored Gallagher's rank. □

Former Iowa governor says Biden has 'heart of a president'



Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden speaks during a town hall meeting, Friday, Nov. 22, 2019, in Winterset, Iowa.

Associated Press

By **THOMAS BEAUMONT**
DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) —

In endorsing Democrat Joe Biden for president on Saturday, former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack said, above all, the former vice president's personal losses give him "the capacity to comfort" and "the need to heal" a divided nation.

Vilsack, who served eight years in the Obama administration with Biden as secretary of agriculture, said during a morning rally in Des Moines that Biden could step into the office with an immediate com-

mand of domestic and global issues at a time when events demand "you can't be a rookie in this business. You've got to be a pro."

More fundamentally, the death of Biden's first wife and infant daughter in a car accident in 1972 and his son Beau's death from cancer in 2015 have given Biden a deep sense of suffering important to understanding the day-to-day struggles, and personal pain, of many Americans. He is "a man with empathy, and a man who has the heart of a president," said

Vilsack, who noted Biden's outreach after Vilsack's six-year-old granddaughter died in 2017 from complications of influenza.

The endorsement comes as Biden has slipped from being the early favorite in Iowa last spring to trailing newcomers, South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

Biden is embarking on an eight-day bus tour next week, in hopes of sparking momentum with fewer than two months until the caucuses. □

Governor: Alabama sheriff shot, killed in line of duty

HAYNEVILLE, Ala. (AP) — An Alabama sheriff was fatally shot Saturday evening in a community near the state's capital, authorities announced, later saying they were seeking a man considered to be a "serious risk" who may be traveling on foot.

Gov. Kay Ivey tweeted that Lowndes County Sheriff John Williams had been "tragically killed" in the line of duty and that she offered her prayers and sympathy to his family and the Lowndes County Sheriff's Department.

Montgomery County Sheriff Derrick Cunningham told news outlets that Williams was shot at a gas station in the community of Hayneville, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) southwest of Mont-

gomery. Details remained sketchy as law enforcement agents converged on the community. Video from WSFA-TV showed a heavy law enforcement presence late Saturday outside a QV gas station.

Alabama Law Enforcement Agency spokesman Cpl. Jess Thornton told reporters the State Bureau of Investigation was en route to the scene.

Meanwhile, the state issued what it called an "emergency BLUE alert" that it was seeking an 18-year-old white man last seen at a QV gas station in the area at 8:15 p.m., the time of the reported shooting. The statement made no mention of the shooting or a possible connection to the man.

The tall sheriff was known as "Big John." Ivey paid tribute to him online, writing that in his years of service in the U.S. Marine Corps and "his many years working in law enforcement, he dedicated his life to keeping other people safe."

The sheriff was first elected in 2010, running as a Democrat. He was a Lowndes County native who started volunteering as a reserve deputy in 1978. He also worked for Hayneville police before joining the sheriff's department full-time in 1987 and being appointed chief deputy in 1990.

"Sheriff Williams always wanted to make a difference in his community and felt there was no better way to help his community than to protect and serve them



Lowndes County Sheriff John Williams was shot and killed in the line of duty at a convenience store in Hayneville, Ala., on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019.

Associated Press

in law enforcement," the biography read. Lowndes County is predominantly black. It had a population of around 11,000 in the 2010 census. □

Alaska AG: Same-sex spouse eligible for oil-wealth check

By **BECKY BOHRER**
Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — Alaska's attorney general on Friday said a woman who alleged she was wrongly denied a check from the state's oil-wealth fund because of her same-sex marriage is eligible. Kevin Clarkson, in a since-deleted tweet, called Denali Nicole Smith's lawsuit "pointless." He said her 2019 application is listed as "Eligible - Not Paid" and hasn't been paid because she has not provided a correct address. "Big non-issue here," the tweet said.

A related tweet also was deleted.

Department of Law spokeswoman Cori Mills said by email that the department "decided we need to double check our facts before posting and make sure we are clearly talking about the correct years." She hoped to have further details later Friday.

Attached to Smith's federal lawsuit is an Aug. 23 denial letter from the state agency that determines eligibility for Permanent Fund Dividends. The letter cites provisions of state law bar-



In this Sept. 26, 2019 file photo, Alaska Attorney General Kevin Clarkson, left, speaks to reporters as Gov. Mike Dunleavy, right, looks on in Anchorage, Alaska.

Associated Press

ring recognition of same-sex marriage and says the denial was based on the fact Smith was "absent from Alaska 206 days during 2018 accompanying her same sex spouse."

In late 2014, a federal judge deemed Alaska's ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional. In 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court gave same-sex couples nationally the right to marry. The state has been barred from enforcing provisions of law cited in the letter, said Heather Gardner, an attorney for Smith.

The lawsuit says Smith is an Alaska resident who last year married and moved with military wife Miranda Murphy to Florida, where Murphy is stationed. The lawsuit identifies Murphy as an Alaska resident.

It claims that representatives of the Permanent Fund Dividend Division told Smith that if she were married to a man, she would not be denied a check. This year's check was \$1,606. State law provides allowable absences under which an individual could still be eligible for a check. □

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3 dead, highway collapses as floods pound France, Italy

By FRANCES D'EMILIO

ANGELA CHARLTON

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Flooding pounded France and Italy amid heavy rains over the weekend, leaving at least three dead and a stretch of elevated highway collapsed by a landslide, officials said Sunday. The weather has trapped travelers, downed trees and unleashing mudslides in parts of both countries.

A 30-meter (100-foot) section of highway along a viaduct near the flooded Italian coastal city of Savona collapsed, leaving cars perched perilously on a precipice.

In an aerial video taken by firefighters, cars and one truck could be seen stopped perilously close to the point where the raised part of the A6 highway plunged onto a wooded area of the Liguria region. A man from one of the cars closest to the precipice stood outside his vehicle, holding up his arms toward other traffic to make sure drivers stopped.

Liguria Gov. Giovanni Toti



Firefighters work in the area where a stretch of the Turin to Savona A6 highway collapsed following heavy rains.

said a landslide caused the collapse in a muddy, hilly area. Firefighters were using dogs to sniff out any possible victims in two-meter (6.5 feet) high debris of mud, Toti said. It wasn't known if any vehicles might have plunged off the highway which is supported by

pillars at that point. The roadway gave way about 1.5 kilometers (a mile) outside of Savona on the highway that links that Riviera city to Turin.

The collapse was eerily reminiscent of the 2018 bridge tragedy in Genoa during a rainstorm that killed 43 peo-

ple, when trucks and cars plunged into a dry riverbed below.

Elsewhere in northern Italy, a woman was found dead after the surging Bomida river swept away her car. Flooding in Turin, a city in northwest Italy, prompted cancellation of a mara-

thon. In France, the Nice airport was briefly closed Saturday. Rivers leading from the Alps to the French Riviera broke their banks, and sirens rang out in resort towns. Images on French media showed cars peeking above inundated streets and waves slamming onto roadsides.

A rescue boat sank while bringing three people to shore near the French town of Muy, and one of them died, the Var regional administration said. Another person was found dead in a car in the town of Cabasse.

French authorities are searching for two people missing in the floods, Nice Mayor Christian Estrosi said Sunday.

Rain-swollen rivers and flooded streets plagued Italy, where it has been raining, sometimes heavily, in much of the country nearly every day for about two weeks. In Turin, the Po River overran its banks and flooded the medieval quarter and a popular riverside strolling area known as the Murazzi. □

Associated Press



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Boris Johnson unveils election platform, promises Brexit

By GREGORY KATZ

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is using the launch of his Conservative Party platform to claim that his is the only party in next month's election that will complete the Brexit process.

"Unlike any other party standing in this election, we are going to get Brexit done," he told supporters while waving his party's printed platform, which was unveiled Sunday.

Johnson said the rival parties — the Liberal Democrats, the Labour Party and others — would only bring more delay and eventually betray the will of voters as expressed in the 2016 Brexit referendum.

Johnson spent much of the time ridiculing opposition Labour Party leader Jere-

my Corbyn. He didn't offer details about the plans laid out in the party platform. The manifesto featured a commitment to bring Johnson's Brexit deal back to Parliament before Christmas, with passage likely assured if the Conservatives win a majority in the Dec. 12 vote.

Johnson vowed to respect the results of the 2016 referendum, which saw Britain vote 52% to 48% in favor of leaving the European Union bloc.

That vote was followed by difficult negotiations with the EU that eventually led to a divorce deal — but one that was rejected in Parliament and then renegotiated by Johnson.

The prime minister says that will change if his party wins a majority, because each of the party's candidates

has agreed to back the deal. His repeated promise to "get Brexit done" will be much more difficult if he doesn't win an outright majority as other parties plan to slow Brexit down — or halt it altogether.

Before the official launch, Johnson's Conservative Party pledged fiscal openness with the unveiling of its campaign pledges.

Treasury chief Sajid Javid told Sky News the Conservative manifesto would be the "most transparent" explanation of spending plans in British history.

Johnson revealed the party's campaign plans at an event in the West Midlands, where the Conservatives hope to make inroads with traditional Labour Party voters unhappy with the opposition party's Brexit stance. □

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Your online Aruba restaurant guide

Romania's Iohannis hopes for 2nd term in presidential runoff

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Romanians are voting Sunday in a presidential runoff election in which incumbent Klaus Iohannis is vying for a second term while vowing to continue efforts to fight corruption.

promising the rule of law and the independence of judges.

Earlier this month, lawmakers backed a minority government led by Prime Minister Ludovic Orban of the National Liberal Party, for-

president has significant decision-making powers, including on matters of national security and foreign policy. Elected for a five-year term, the president can also reject party nominees for prime minister and

government nominees for judicial appointments.

Romania, a member of the EU since 2007, is plagued by widespread poverty with over 25% of its population living on less than \$5.50 a day, according to a

World Bank study last year. Recent figures pointed to slowing economic growth, though the annual rate of 3% percent achieved in the third quarter of the year was still among the fastest in Europe. □



Romanian President Klaus Iohannis speaks to the media after casting his vote in Bucharest, Romania, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019.
Associated Press

Iohannis, a conservative, is facing Social Democratic Party leader Viorica Dancila, a former prime minister. Polls close at 1900 GMT. In the first round two weeks ago, Iohannis won 37.8% and Dancila 22.2%.

"I voted for a modern Romania, a European Romania, a normal Romania," Iohannis said after casting his ballot. "I invite you all to come out and vote."

For her part, Dancila promised "more involvement, work and commitment to the Romanian people."

Dancila's government was ousted on Oct. 10 after losing a confidence vote in parliament. It had been embroiled by allegations of corruption and criticized by the European Union for judicial reforms seen as com-

merly headed by Iohannis. Iohannis has clashed often with Dancila and her party over the judiciary reforms and other legislation. Opponents and critics worried about the dilution of anti-corruption laws which in the past years led to the indictment of dozens of Cabinet members, lawmakers and even a Romanian member of the European Parliament.

Public outrage has also resulted in frequent, massive anti-corruption protests in Bucharest and other cities. With their shared ideological roots and values, Iohannis and Orban would be expected to work together to boost the anti-graft measures.

Though lacking an executive role, Romania's



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Egypt: Independent media outlet says police raided its HQ

CAIRO (AP) — Security forces on Sunday raided the offices of one of Egypt's last remaining independent media outlets, briefly detaining its top editor and two other journalists and later releasing them, the outlet and officials said. The raid is the latest in a widening government crackdown on dissent and media.

The outlet, Mada Masr, has produced investigative pieces looking into some of Egypt's government institutions, including the intelligence agencies, military and presidency. Such stories are not produced by other local media in the country, where nearly all newspapers and television channels are closely aligned with the government or military. A group of plainclothes security agents stormed the outlet's offices Sunday afternoon and locked staff inside for hours, Mada reported on Twitter. During that time, the agents searched through staffers' laptops and mobile phones and questioned



Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi speaks at the "G20 Investment Summit - German Business and the CwA Countries 2019" on the sidelines of a Compact with Africa (CwA) in Berlin, Germany on Nov. 19, 2019.

Associated Press

the top editor, Lina Atallah, and other journalists, it said. Gamal Eid, head of the Arab Network for Human Rights Information, said lawyers from his organization were not allowed to enter Mada Masr's office. After several hours, police left the offices, taking Atallah and two other journalists, Mohamed Hamama and Rana Mamdouh, to

the local public prosecutor's office, Mada said in a tweet. They were later released, according to Sharif Abdel-Koudous, a journalist at the outlet. "They were aggressive from the beginning," he said of security forces who were questioning the group. Eid later said the journalists were released without being charged.

The Association for Freedom of Thought and Expression, a local media advocate, condemned the raid and demanded the government "immediately withdraw the security forces" from Mada Masr's offices. The Committee to Protect Journalists, a U.S.-based watchdog, also condemned the raid.

"Mada has shown nothing but courage in reporting the news against all odds and in the face of brutal repression," said Sherif Mansour, CPJ's Middle East and North Africa Program Coordinator. Mansour called for Egyptian authorities to "end their retaliation campaign" against the outlet.

Two police officials who spoke on condition of anonymity said the raid was due to lack of an operating license. Media are required to have permission to work in Egypt, but that requirement is often used as a pretext to silence reporting the state sees as critical. The outlet has said in previous statements that it has applied for a license but not received a response.

Despite being blocked, Mada Masr continued to publish through mirror sites. Most recently, it ran a story reporting that el-Sisi's son had been sidelined from his senior post in the main intelligence agency. Any reporting on intelligence agencies or the president's family is seen as off-limits by the government. □

13 dead in 1 of the 'worst' days of protest in southern Iraq



Mourners and protesters escort the flag-draped coffin of Munir Ali, whose family said was killed in anti-government demonstrations, during his funeral in Baghdad, Iraq, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019.

Associated Press

**By SAMYA KULLAB
MURTADA FARAJ
Associated Press**

BAGHDAD (AP) — Thirteen anti-government protesters were killed Sunday by Iraqi security forces in one of the "worst" days of clashes in the country's south, as protests swept through the oil-rich area, officials said. Demonstrators outraged by rampant government corruption and poor services burned tires and blocked main road arteries. Seven protesters were killed in the southern province of Basra, near the Umm Qasr

port, when Iraqi authorities used live fire and tear gas to disperse them, said security and hospital officials, who requested anonymity in line with regulations.

One security official in Basra said it was "one of the worst" days since the start of the protest movement. At least 150 protesters were wounded in clashes across southern Iraq.

Four protesters were killed in Nassiriya province, and one killed in both Najaf, the seat of Iraq's Shiite religious authority, and Diwanieh provinces.

Earlier in Basra, which accounts for nearly 85% of the country's crude oil production, protesters burned tires in the city center cutting main roads. Nearly 90% of Iraq's state revenue is derived from oil exports, but there is no indication that the protest movement has impacted production.

Protesters had cut roads leading to Umm Qasr, the country's main commodities port, halting all trade activity.

Security forces cleared the area of protesters on Thursday. □

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High turnout in Hong Kong vote seen as referendum on protest

By KEN MORITSUGU

HONG KONG (AP) — Given a chance to vote, the people of Hong Kong did just that.

Long lines snaked around plazas and extended for blocks as citizens of the semi-autonomous Chinese territory turned out in droves Sunday for an election seen as a test of public support for anti-government protests that have persisted for more than five months.

The Electoral Affairs Commission said 31% of the city's 4.1 million registered voters cast ballots in the first five hours, up from 14.5% in the same period four years ago.

Christina Li said that it was important for older people like herself to support the

youth, who are at the forefront of the protests.

"Younger generations might not be able to enjoy the rights that we are enjoying now," she said as she waited in line to go inside a polling station. "We cannot take it for granted."

The race for 452 seats in the city's 18 district councils has taken on symbolic importance. A strong showing by the opposition would show that the public still supports the pro-democracy movement, even as the protests have become increasingly violent.

The vote for the district councils, which advise the government on issues of local concern, are the only fully democratic elections in Hong Kong. Members of the legislature are chosen



Riot police stand outside of a polling place in Hong Kong, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019.

Associated Press

partly by popular vote and partly by interest groups representing different sectors of society, and the city's leader is picked by a 1,200-member body that is dominated by supporters

of the central government in Beijing.

The ruling camp in Hong Kong and the government in Beijing hope that the unrest and disruption to daily life will turn voters against

the protesters.

Democracy activist Joshua Wong, who was barred from running in the election, voted soon after polls opened at 7:30 a.m. Results are expected after midnight.

"Even if they censor me out from the ballot, lock me out in prison, it will just encourage me to continue to fight for the future with even stronger determination," he told reporters.

City leader Carrie Lam said after voting that organizing the election was extremely challenging because of the unrest.

"But I'm pleased to say that ... we should have a relatively peaceful and calm environment to conduct these elections successfully," she said. □

26 killed as small plane crashes into homes in Congo

GOMA, Congo (AP) — A small plane crashed into homes shortly after takeoff Sunday in Congo's eastern city of Goma, killing 26 people, including the aircraft's passengers and crew, as well as residents on the ground, the government of the central African nation said.

The 19-seat Dornier 228-200, owned by private carrier Busy Bee, was headed to Beni, about 350 kilometers (220 miles) north of Goma, when it crashed in the Mapendo district near the airport in the North Kivu

province, according to the government.

Black smoke rose from the plane wreckage and destroyed homes as dozens of men tried to help with rescue efforts. The smoke cleared as the men carried bodies on stretchers and hundreds gathered at the site.

Although the National Border Health Program initially said there were two survivors from the plane, including a crew member, the provisional death toll was later put at 26 — 17 passengers, two crew mem-

bers and seven residents of the homes, the Ministry of Transportation said after collecting information from other government departments.

Placide Kambale, a local pilot, said he rushed to the scene to help out and saw that the plane was on fire. "I called other young people from the neighborhood. They helped me to try to remove those who still moved," he said. "We have managed to recover two that was quickly sent to the hospital" before the fire spread. □



Rescuers and onlookers gather amidst the debris of an aircraft operated by private carrier Busy Bee which crashed in Goma, Congo Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019.

Associated Press

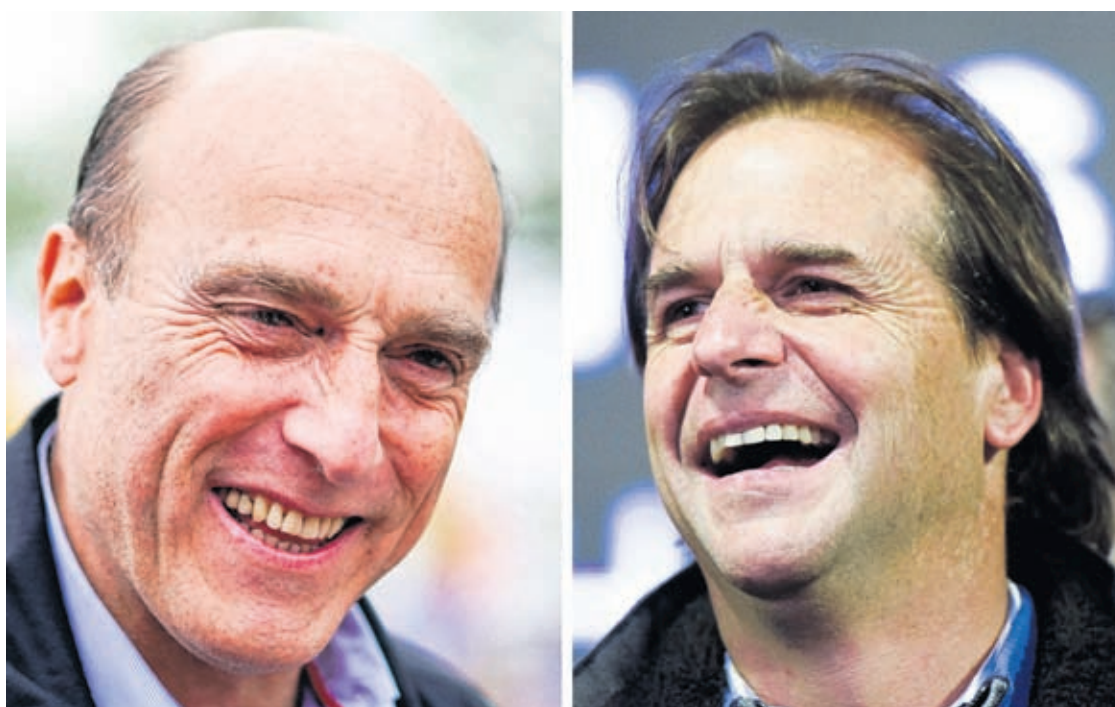
Uruguay's leftist government at risk in election

By **LEONARDO HABERKORN**
MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay

(AP) — A 15-year string of center-left governments was on the line Sunday as Uruguay's Broad Front coalition faced a presidential runoff election challenge from a united opposition. The National Party's Luis Lacalle Pou, who lost the presidential runoff five years ago, held a noticeable though apparently single-digit lead over the Broad Front's Daniel Martínez in polls heading into the vote.

Lacalle Pou, a 46-year-old lawyer and a former senator, is anything but an outsider. His father is former President Luis Alberto Lacalle and his mother was a senator.

He's attacked the administration of current President Tabaré Vázquez for a soft economy, reminding voters that the unemployment rate has risen to 9.2% and that more than 50,000 jobs have been lost in recent



This combination of file photos shows presidential candidate of the Broad Front ruling party Daniel Martínez, left, on Oct. 20, 2019, and rival Luis Lacalle Pou, leader of the opposition National Party, on Oct. 22, 2019, both in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Associated Press

years. The center-right candidate has also hammered at rising crime in the country of 3.4 million people and has promised to rein in public spending to curb a rising deficit.

Martínez, a 62-year-old engineer who was recently mayor of Montevideo and previously industry minister, has been reminding voters of his party's longer record, dating back to 2005. He

says that when the Broad Front first came to power, 1 million people were living in poverty, almost one third of the population. That number has plummeted, to 8.1%.

Martínez, a member of the Socialist Party, represents the more moderate and center-left wing of the Broad Front, which is a coalition of social democrats, communists, Christian democrats and former guerrilla members.

Martínez is a noted cycling enthusiast while Lacalle Pou favors surfing.

Martínez earned the most votes in October's first round, topping Lacalle Pou 39% to 29%. But the challenger managed to win the support of four parties that were knocked out by that balloting.

Uruguay so far has escaped the turbulent, sometimes partisan protests that have swept Chile, Bolivia and recently Colombia, and Vázquez took note of that as he voted on Sunday.

"All Uruguayans have to feel proud of being the people we are, respectful of law, respectful of the constitution, respectful of the opposition," he said. □

Bolivian lawmakers approve new elections, bar ex-president

By **PAOLA FLORES**
Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Bolivian lawmakers on Saturday unanimously approved a measure calling for new presidential elections that would exclude former leader Evo Morales — a key step toward pacifying a nation rocked by unrest since an Oct. 20 marred by reported irregularities.

The bill was first approved by the Senate and then later in the day by the lower house, both of which are dominated by Morales' Movement Toward Socialism party. Interim President Jeanine Áñez tweeted that she would promulgate the bill into law Sunday morning.

"I want to thank our parliamentarians for having understood and heard the demands of the Bolivian people," Áñez wrote.

The Supreme Electoral Tribunal will set the date for the new elections. Bolivia's lawmakers must still select new members to the tribu-



Bolivia's interim President Jeanine Añez speaks during a press conference at the presidential palace, in La Paz, Bolivia, Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019.

Associated Press

nal. The measure forbids reelection of anyone who has served the last two terms consecutively as president, effectively ruling out Morales, whose refusal to accept such term limits was a

key issue in protests against him. Morales' claim of victory and a fourth term in the election prompted massive protests that led him to resign on Nov. 10 at the army's suggestion.

An audit by a team from the Organization of American States found widespread irregularities in that election.

After Morales left for asylum in Mexico, his own supporters took to the streets in

protest.

Officials say at least 32 people have died in demonstrations since the presidential election, which would be annulled by Saturday's vote.

An agreement late Friday on elections between Morales' party and the interim government helped pacify the country. Street blockades were lifted, allowing supplies to reach marketplaces Saturday in areas that had been short of groceries and gas.

Sen. Oscar Ortiz said the bill calls for updating the electoral rolls, naming a completely new electoral tribunal to oversee the vote.

"We have to generate confidence in the population," said Sen. Omar Aguilar, from Morales' party.

Also Saturday, Áñez rejected a bill presented by Morales' party that would have prevented the ousted president from being tried for alleged crimes committed during the exercise of his functions to date. □

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Terrific Thanksgiving at Double Down Sports Bar & Grill: New executive chef invites you to a trip of taste and tradition



EAGLE BEACH — Eagle Aruba Resort & Casino is flying you to the next level with a new executive chef who has already earned his stripes in gastronomy. Michael van Dorst excels in the startup of kitchens as he did for Screaming Eagle restaurant, Windows on Aruba and Chicken & Lobster among others. With over twelve years of experience he invites you all to Double Down Sports Bar & Grill at Eagle Aruba Resort & Casino to taste what all-American tradition is about. This is the place to be on Thurs-

day November 28th to indulge in feasting and football at the same time.

Van Dorst is happy to be at Double Down. "This is a full concept with a down-to-earth menu offering a cozy ambiance with all sports to be watched on the many HD screens and a casino on hand to play a round. I am open to run all kinds of kitchens but I do want to be the best in my game." This Thanksgiving he invites you to taste what a traditional buffet in its es-

sence means. "I am not going to change the traditional menu but I do spice it up a bit with surprising details. Most important characteristic of my way of cooking is to keep it pure and natural. I conquer with honesty." The executive chef together with his team will take you to a rich buffet that can be combined with local dark beers from our island: Hopi Stout and B62. "With this Thanksgiving buffet I combine two worlds, the United States and Aruba."

Expect plenty of US-style partying going down, with American whisky cocktails, American anthems, Beer Bucket Specials, Giveaways (must be present to win) and of course turkey specials, the Double Down Sports bar way. NFL fans will be buzzing to hear that along with this you can watch all the American Football games LIVE on huge HD screens and 4 Giant 9-foot Screens, so you don't have to miss a thing.

Future Fun

With Van Dorst steering the main kitchen at Eagle Aruba Resort & Casino Double Down will have a lot of future fun for you in the pocket. "This bar is very accessible and cozy and we like to keep the food in line with that while focusing on the flavors. Burgers are homemade and available in a variety from Wagyu beef to Triple Pounders. We work together with local suppliers making fresh ingredients a fact." Herbs, mushrooms, lettuce are all coming straight from Aruban soil which makes you as a customer supporting local businesses while eating here. "We are also going to work together with the lion fish organization to contribute to the reef care." Besides that Van Dorst has Aruban students in his kitchen who he teaches the skills. "I had the opportunity to work with the best chefs in The Netherlands and I see it as my duty to transfer that knowledge to young Arubans." Make your way to Double Down Sports Bar & Grill and decide for yourself whether Van Dorst and his crew will make you feel thankful for coming. We already know they do!

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Aruba is and will always be my second home

EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Jonathan Boekhoudt of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor one of Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as a Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba. The symbolic Goodwill Ambassador is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honoree was **Ernestine Sobczak** from USA. Ernestine stated that Aruba is and will always be her second home. She fell in love the first time she came to the island back in 1999. She also stated that she loves Aruba very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its rich culture, and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Boekhoudt together with the representatives of the Aruba Beach Club Resort presented the Goodwill Ambassador certificate to Ernestine, handed over some additional presents and also thanked her for choosing Aruba as her favorite vacation destination and as her home- away-from-home. □





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What to do with a counterfeit bank note

ORANJESTAD — The Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) informs the public about the current laws and steps that should be taken when suspecting that a florin banknote could be counterfeit. CBA through this announcement reminds the public in general of the legislation in force concerning the counterfeiting of our florin banknotes.

According to Article 19 paragraph (1) of the State Ordinance governing the monetary system ("Landsverordening regeling geldstelsel" (Lrg) (AB 1991 No. GT34)), a person who suspects that a florin banknote is counterfeit is obliged to immediately take this banknote to the CBA's office to verify its authenticity.

According to articles 169 up to and including 174 of Book 2 of Aruba's Penal Code ("Wetboek van Strafrecht" (AB 2012 no. 14)), persons who are guilty of counterfeiting florin banknotes can receive a criminal sentence of up to nine years in prison.

Each person is responsible for recognizing that a florin banknote is authentic before accepting that banknote. That is why it is very important to be acquainted with the security features on the florin banknotes.

Information on the security features of the florin banknotes is available at the office of the CBA and on its website (www.cba-aruba.org), as well as at all commercial banks.

For additional information you can contact the Cash Operations & Logistics Department of the CBA, at telephone number 525-2139 or 525-2141. □



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Dynamic dance show Club di Movimiento

ORANJESTAD — The theme for the dynamic dance show that was on this weekend in Aruba's theatre Cas di Cultura was The Oscars. Dance school Club di Movimiento presented a colorful show where all students of the school showed their skills during an evening/afternoon filling event.

Director Samanta Westera-Juppa is proud of her dedicated students showing their talents during the annual dance recital. Oscar winning movies is a vivid theme and the costumes only were Oscar worthy. Some outstanding and inspiring movies that touched many of us in the heart served as elements of the performances. Ballet, pointes, folklore, tap, afro, urban fusion, Latin, contemporary, modern, jazz, lyrical, street dance and acrobatic aerial arts all formed part of the show where in the first part the youngest dancers participated and in the second act the more advanced dancers performed. One thing was very clear while watching this spectacle: Club di Movimiento is a family, the enthusiasm and dedication of the students but also the fun were obvious during the presentations. The theatre was completely filled with the audience that existed for a main part of the students' families and friends. Most impressive part of the show for many was the dance on the theme of the movie Schindler's List where the dancers acted as Jewish women suffering in a concentration camp. Westera-Juppa asked the audience for silence during this performance and explained to have chosen this heavy topic to bring awareness that this should never happen again. The dancers did a great job throughout the full show, of course the little ones were adorable and for sure everyone in the audience had her or his favorite Oscar movie heard by the end of the night. □





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Hotel Hustle

Column by: Shanella Pantophlet

New sheriff in town

ORANJESTAD — I've been in my current position for about 5 years now and to tell you the truth at the outset I was intimidated by the shoes I had to fill. My predecessor had been with the company for 29 years, our guests knew her and loved her and she knew and loved them right back. I remember when I started as an intern I would see here there at all hours of the day and night working through reservations and doing her best to accommodate requests. On Saturdays she would practically be the first person on the job and the last to leave, still trying to work a miracle.

It was that dedication and determination that I found intimidating. The first year I spent countless hours emailing people and advising them she was no longer with the company and I was now in charge of res-

ervations. Understandably there was some upset at the outset, everyone had to get used to me being the new sheriff in town.

The one thing that used to irritate me the most, would always be emails that would go "this is the assignment I want and I've always gotten it in the past." It becomes quite difficult to tell someone who has become used to a certain accommodation over the years that it's not possible this year. I've had more than my fair share of angry people in my office on Monday morning making comparisons between the way I do things and the way things used to be done. It used to affect me and weigh me down, but as time went on and people understood that our goal post had shifted we started to find our own routine.

It's been a good three or so years since I've had someone make any comparisons about the job I've been doing vs the job done by my predecessor. Until about 2 weeks ago when during our Members meeting one of our Members stood up to complain that he hadn't received the assignment he wanted and it was the first time in 30 years it had happened. He'd never had an issue with the former reservations manager. Someone helpfully pointed out to

him she hadn't been there in about 5 years so even under my oversight his request was still being met.

It was the last thing I was expecting to hear about in that meeting with everything else going on. However, where a few years ago my response would have been profuse apology, the more confident and steady in myself person I have become, explained that the company we were 5 years ago and the company we are now,

are miles apart.

We used to be a company that did okay and were complacent with our business model. In the last few years we've grown and with that growth comes changes and not everyone will be happy with those changes, but they are necessary for our continued success. A lot has changed since I took over and I'm sure there is more change to come even beyond me. □



Aruban born and bred Shanella Pantophlet is passionate about tourism. That is the world she studied and works in, so we might as well call her a specialist. Luckily for Aruba Today Shanella also loves to write. And together with the fact that the majority of our readers are tourists, we found ourselves a perfect combination for a column: Hotel Hustle.



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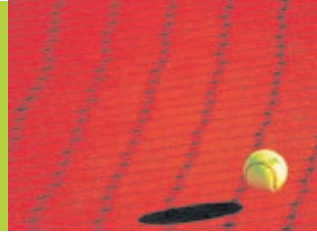
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SPORTS



Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James (23) in the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019, in Memphis, Tenn.

Associated Press

LeBron James scores 30 as Lakers hold off Grizzlies 109-108

By TERESA M. WALKER
AP Sports Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers knew they would be tired playing their second game in as many nights.

Experience made the difference against the young and rested Memphis Grizzlies.

James scored on a driving layup with 1:30 left to put Los Angeles ahead to stay as the Lakers held off the Grizzlies 109-108 on Saturday night for their seventh straight victory.

"We just kept our composure," James said. "That's what we do. We are a very resilient team."

The Grizzlies had a final chance with the ball and 1.3 seconds left. Jaren Jackson Jr. went sprawling trying to corral Kyle Anderson's inbound pass.

Continued on Page 20

DUCK TIME



Hodges leads Steelers over winless Bengals 16-10

Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver James Washington runs in a touchdown during the second half of an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019, in Cincinnati.

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Pittsburgh Steelers vs. Cincinnati Bengals

By JOE KAY

AP Sports Writer

CINCINNATI (AP) — Devlin "Duck" Hodges took over for struggling Mason Rudolph and threw a 79-yard touchdown pass Sunday, sparking the depleted Pittsburgh Steelers to a 16-10 victory that kept the Cincinnati Bengals the only winless team in the NFL. Hodges connected with James Washington on the game-turning play in the third quarter, leaving Pittsburgh (6-5) with a quarterback decision as it moves forward without Ben Roethlisberger.

The Steelers' defense has steadied them through the transition, and it had a major impact in Pittsburgh's 10th straight win over the hapless Bengals (0-11), who set franchise records for worst start and longest losing streak.

Tyler Boyd made a catch and was stripped by Devin Bush at the Steelers 8-yard

line in the fourth quarter, preserving the lead. Bud Dupree sacked Ryan Finley and forced a fumble that he recovered with 2:38 left, closing it out.

What's left of the Steelers' offense — hollowed out by injuries and a suspension — struggled in the first half and prompted coach Mike Tomlin to switch from Rudolph to Hodges, who provided an immediate boost. His touchdown pass to Washington gave the Steelers a 10-7 lead and got thousands of Terrible Towels twirling at Paul Brown Stadium.

Hodges filled in for one game after Rudolph suffered a concussion and directed a 24-17 win over the Chargers on Oct. 13. Tomlin went back to Rudolph as soon as he was healthy. Now, he's got a big decision as the Steelers try to stay in the playoff chase. Hodges ran an offense missing three stars after

a 21-7 loss to Cleveland that ended with ugliness — Myles Garrett clubbing Rudolph with the QB's own helmet. Steelers center Maurkice Pouncey served the first of his two-game suspension Sunday for kicking and punching Garrett in the melee.

Also, receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster was out with a concussion and running back James Conner had a shoulder injury from the Cleveland game. The Steelers got what they needed out of what was left, with Hodges leading the way. He went 5 of 11 or 118 yards with two sacks. Rookie Benny Snell Jr. returned from a knee injury and ran for 98 yards.

If the Bengals were going to end that long losing streak against their Ohio River rival, this was their chance. Instead, they saw another one slip away in the end, just like all the others. The Bengals repeatedly



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Devlin Hodges (6) passes during the second half an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019, in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

dodged disaster in the first half and led 7-3, only their third halftime lead this season. They fumbled the opening kickoff but recovered. Finley was sacked and fumbled on Cincinnati's second possession, but Giovani Bernard fell on the ball. Finley later was sacked just in front of the goal line, avoiding a safety. Finley was 12 of 26 for 192 yards, including a 15-yard

touchdown pass to Boyd.

INJURIES

Steelers: CB Artie Burns was out with a knee injury.

Bengals: Alex Redmond was expected to start at left guard but hurt his left elbow during pregame warmups and didn't play.

UP NEXT

Steelers: Host Cleveland next Sunday.

Bengals: Host the New York Jets next Sunday. □



Memphis Grizzlies' Dillon Brooks (24), Jaren Jackson Jr. (13) and Los Angeles Lakers' Dwight Howard (39) go after a loose ball in the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019, in Memphis, Tenn.

Associated Press

Continued from Page 18

"I was going to catch it and see if I had time to get a shot off or hit Ja (Morant), who would've probably been running full speed right next to me," Jackson said. "Obviously, we didn't get to do all that." James finished with 30 points. Anthony Davis added 22, Rajon Rondo had 14, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 12 and Dwight Howard had 10. Morant led Memphis with

26 points. Jae Crowder added 21, Jackson finished with 20, Dillon Brooks had 12 and Anderson scored 10, making rookie coach Taylor Jenkins very proud. "If we can play like that every night, we have ourselves a chance," Jenkins said. The Lakers showed the effects of winning in Oklahoma City on Friday night. James made clear on social media he had trouble getting a nap with their

hotel across the street from the FedExForum, where No. 16 Memphis beat Mississippi 87-86 earlier Saturday. "We're lucky to get out of here with a win. Credit to the Grizzlies for coming out strong," said Lakers coach Frank Vogel, who used earplugs to help him rest. "There young guys really came after us, in the first quarter in particular. Morant and Jackson are special talents and they put us in a hole." LA never led in the first half and trailed by as much as 15 in the second quarter. The Lakers got going in the third and opened the fourth by jumping out to their biggest lead at 94-87. The Grizzlies led 105-100 on a tip-in by Brandon Clarke with 3:24 to go. The Lakers scored the next nine with James hitting his layup for the go-ahead bucket, and Davis followed by tipping in James' miss for a 109-105 lead with 53.5 seconds left. Morant's layup with 28 seconds left pulled Memphis within a point. James missed a jumper with the Grizzlies grabbing the re-

bound to set up the final try. The Grizzlies lost their third straight on a night they wore their Vancouver teal uniforms for the first time to celebrate their 25th NBA season along with a throw-back court. Memphis led 35-25 after the first quarter and 63-55 at halftime. **TIP-INS** Lakers: Rondo played hours after the NBA fined him \$35,000 for the foul that got him ejected from the Lakers' win over the Thunder for kicking guard Dennis Schroder in the groin area. Against Memphis, Rondo also had six assists and three rebounds. ... James snapped his seven-game streak with 10 or more assists, the longest in his career, with just four assists. It was the longest such streak for the Lakers since Magic Johnson had 10 straight in 1990-91. Grizzlies: They hit their first eight 3-pointers before Jackson missed with 10:38 left in the second. The team finished 14 of 30, the eighth time in nine games it has hit

at least 10 3s. ... Outscored the Lakers 52-46 in the paint and outrebounded them 47-40. ... Memphis now is 4-1 in games decided by six or fewer points this season. **MOVING ON UP** James had six rebounds and now has 9,002 for his career. He also had two more steals, giving him 1,958 to move past Derek Harper for 14th all-time. He explained why he's been so successful taking the ball away. "Anticipation, being in the right place at the right time, being healthy for the majority of my career so far, and then also being around some really good defensive coaches," James said. **NO FOUL TRIPPING** Davis set a Lakers franchise record by making 26 free throws on 27 attempts when these teams first met Oct. 29. Jackson recalled barely playing in that game because of foul trouble. This time, the No. 4 overall pick of the 2018 draft played 33 minutes, having picked up only two fouls. Davis was 5 of 6 at the line this time. □

For Dad: Bautista Agut gives Spain 1-0 lead over Canada

By TALES AZZONI
Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Three days after the death of his father, Roberto Bautista Agut beat Félix Auger-Aliassime 7-6 (3), 6-3 to give Spain a 1-0 lead over Canada in the Davis Cup final on Sunday. An emotional Bautista Agut pointed his finger to the sky while celebrating his victory. Top-ranked Rafael Nadal can secure Spain the title at the inaugural Davis Cup Finals with a victory against Denis Shapovalov in the second singles match later Sunday. Bautista Agut hadn't played since leaving the Spanish team a day after defeating Nikola Mektic of Croatia on Wednesday. His father died on Thursday after an illness that stemmed from a 2016 accident. Bautista Agut prevailed in the first-set tiebreaker and earned two breaks early in the second set to clinch the win on his first match point.



Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut returns the ball to Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime during their tennis singles match of the Davis Cup final in Madrid, Spain, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019.

Associated Press

Spain's Marcel Granollers and Feliciano López were scheduled to face Shapovalov and Vasek Pospisil in the doubles, although Nadal is likely to

play if the title was at stake. Nadal played in the decisive doubles on Friday and Saturday. Canada is seeking its first Davis Cup title. Five-time

champion Spain — in its 10th final — hasn't won the competition since 2011. The 19-year-old Auger-Aliassime was making his debut in this year's Davis

Cup after an ankle injury that kept him sidelined through the group stage and the first two rounds of the knockout round. Canada came to Madrid without Milos Raonic because of a back injury. Shapovalov and Pospisil were the only players who had competed until Sunday. Spain used its five players this week, with Nadal winning all of his seven matches entering the final. Colombian singer Shakira performed before the final at the Caja Mágica center court, and Spanish King Felipe VI was among those watching. The new Davis Cup Finals is the result of a 25-year partnership between the International Tennis Federation and the Kosmos group co-founded by Barcelona star Gerard Piqué, Shakira's husband. The new event was created to make the team competition more attractive and lucrative. □



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Kim hits 25-foot putt to capture LPGA finale, \$1.5M prize

By DOUG FERGUSON

NAPLES, Fla. (AP) — Sei Young Kim hit the putt of her life, a 25-foot birdie on the final hole of the CME Group Tour Championship to win \$1.5 million, the richest prize in the history of women's golf.

Kim closed with a 2-under 70 to beat an unlikely foe Sunday at Tiburon Golf Club.

Charley Hull of England birdied her last three holes for a 66, the last one a 12-footer that gave her a tie for the lead. Kim, who looked shaky in missing three straight birdie chances from 12 feet, tugged her approach to the top of a crown at the bag of the green. The winning putt — the money putt — was hit with perfect pace and broke sharply to the right as Kim pumped her fists in disbelief.

She finished a wire-to-wire victory for her third LPGA Tour title of the year and 10th of her career.

This was memorable for the finish and the reward.

Instead of a \$500,000 first-place check and a \$1



Sei Young Kim on the 7th hole during the 2019 CME Group Tour Golf Championship at the Tiburón Golf Club in Naples, Fla., Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019.

Associated Press

million bonus to a season points race, CME Globe wanted to award \$1.5 million in official money to any of the 60 players who qualified for the season finale. That's \$500,000 more than the previous record prize, \$1 million at the U.S. Women's Open.

Kim, who never trailed during the final round, was

feeling the heat coming down the stretch as Danielle Kang and then Hull took aim.

Kang, who made five birdies on the front nine, went quiet on the back until making a 30-foot eagle putt on the 17th. She hit 4-iron into 15 feet on the final hole, and her birdie attempt to tie for the lead was short.

She closed with a 65.

Hull birdied five of her last seven, and when she saw the leaderboard on the 15th, she figured she would have to birdie everything coming. From short of the green on the par-5 17th, she hit putter up the slope to tap-in range to get within one shot of Kim. And on the 18th, she walked in the

birdie putt.

Kim thought her biggest threat was Nelly Korda, who started one shot behind. Korda stalled with two hooked tee shots, the second one hurting her chances at a birdie on the 17th. Walking up the 18th, Kim realized Hull had tied her.

"I didn't know Charley finished at 17 (under)," Kim said at the trophy presentation. "What if I couldn't make it? I could go to a playoff. It's not good for me. It was really nervous when walking through hole 18. I was like: 'OK, not a big deal. Try to play like a practice round.' Even then, I was really nervous."

She set nerves aside and made the only putt that mattered. The \$1.5 million was more than she had made all year.

Kim finished at 18-under 270 and finished No. 2 on the LPGA money list behind Jin Young Ko, who tied for 11th and still had no complaints about her season. Ko won LPGA player of the year, the money title and the Vare Trophy for the lowest scoring average. □

Kipchoge, US hurdler Muhammad named world athletes of year

Associated Press

MONACO (AP) — Pioneering marathon runner Eliud Kipchoge and U.S. hurdler Dalilah Muhammad were named the world athletes of the year in track and field on Saturday.

Kipchoge became the first man to run a sub-two-hour marathon, though the feat wasn't officially recognized as a world record. That's because he ran on his own, with a rotating group of pacemakers and in strictly controlled conditions. Kip-

choge's only competitive race this year came when he won the London Marathon in April.

"I am happy to be the first human being to run under two hours. I hope that I inspired a lot of generations," Kipchoge told the awards ceremony via video link. Muhammad won world championship 400-meter hurdles in world record time. She earlier broke the record in July at the U.S. championships.

"It's been an amazing year.

I'm so thankful to be here," she said.

Muhammad beat fellow nominees Brigid Kosgei, who broke the women's marathon world record, and Sifan Hassan, who won world gold in the 5,000 and 10,000 meters.

The world 5,000-meter silver medalist Selemon Barega of Ethiopia was named male rising star of the year, while Ukrainian high jump silver medalist Yaroslava Mahuchikh was the female rising star. □



In this Oct. 12, 2019, file photo, marathon runner Eliud Kipchoge, from Kenya, celebrates after crossing the finish line of the INEOS 1:59 Challenge after 1:59:40 in Vienna, Austria.

Associated Press

Kristoffersen beats Noel for 1st slalom win in 22 months

Associated Press

LEVI, Finland (AP) — Henrik Kristoffersen has finally triumphed again in a men's World Cup slalom after 22 months, winning the first race since the retirement of his longtime nemesis Marcel Hirscher.

Competing in foggy conditions and snowfall, Kristoffersen edged first-run leader Clement Noel on Sunday to win the first slalom of the season.

It was the Norwegian's 16th career victory in the discipline, but the first since winning in Kitzbuehel in January 2018.

"After the first run I thought: 'Seven-tenths on Noel, that's a bit too much,'" said Kristoffersen, who trailed the Frenchman by 0.68 seconds after the opening leg but beat his French rival by 0.09 thanks to a near-flawless second run.

"My skiing in slalom is much better than last year, we have worked a lot," he said. "It was not a perfect run but it's going in the right direc-



Norway's Henrik Kristoffersen, center, winner of an alpine ski, men's slalom, poses with second placed France Clement Noel, left, and third place Switzerland's Daniel Yule, in Levi, Finland, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019.

Associated Press

tion."

Kristoffersen and Hirscher dominated the slalom circuit for years, with the Austrian mostly coming out on top.

No other skier than Hirscher (six times) or Kristoffersen

(once) has won the season title in the discipline in the past seven seasons.

"In 2015, 16, 17, we were very fast, Marcel and me. Then we were a bit over the limit, I think," Kristoffersen said. "I had to take

back a bit: a bit less speed and a bit more focus on technique. Taking one step back to go three steps forward."

With Hirscher, the record eight-time overall champion from Austria, now re-

tired, the competition for a new slalom champion is wide open.

Noel confirmed his status as one the leading racers in the discipline by posting the fastest time in the opening run, building a lead of 0.39 seconds over Britain's Dave Ryding.

In the second run, however, Noel had a costly mistake going into the steep part of the Levi Black course while Ryding, chasing his first win, slid off the course midway down the hill and failed to finish.

"It was a good race. It was really difficult in the second run," Noel said. "It's a good way to start the season. I am playing with the big boys and I am happy about that."

Noel had his breakthrough in the final two months of last season. Without a World Cup podium finish to his name, Noel finished runner-up in Adelboden in January before winning races in Wengen, Kitzbuehel and Soldeu. □

Kohli and co dominate first day-night cricket test in India

By CHETAN NARULA

Associated Press

KOLKATA, India (AP) — It was lights out. India's first staging of a day-night cricket test resulted in a big win on and off the field.

Virat Kohli's lineup ended Bangladesh's rearguard resistance in broad daylight just 8.4 overs into the third day, sealing victory by an innings and 46 runs on Sunday to secure a 2-0 win in the series.

Umesh Yadav took 5-43 and Ishant Sharma snared 4-55 for a match haul of nine wickets as Bangladesh was bowled out for 195 runs in its second innings.

India has been reluctant to play with a pink ball and under lights in the traditional five-day format, but having crowds around 60,000 per day for the first two days and fast bowlers taking all but one of the 20 wickets may change that. Eleven day-night men's tests were played before India and Bangladesh played their first. It's very un-



Umpire Marais Erasmus signals to start the play as Bangladesh's Mushfiqur Rahim prepares to bat during the third day of the second test cricket match between India and Bangladesh, in Kolkata, India, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019.

Associated Press

likely to be the last for either team. Australia hosted the first, beating New Zealand at Adelaide in 2015, and is unbeaten in its first five. India had an emphatic win its first, and broke with tradition. Spinners Ravichan-

dran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja only sent down seven overs in this test.

Veteran seamer Sharma was voted man of the match as well as man of the series. He picked up 12 wickets over the course of

two tests in Indore and Kolkata.

"They hunt as a pack and have a lot of pride in each other. We are an experienced bowling attack and the beauty is in how quickly they adapt to different

conditions," India's bowling coach Bharat Arun said.

Only Mushfiqur Rahim, 74, delayed India's relentless push for a national record seventh consecutive test win.

He was second man out on Sunday afternoon, caught off Yadav's bowling. Yadav accounted for all three wickets to fall on day three as India wrapped up proceedings with ease.

Mahmudullah, who retired hurt on Saturday owing to a hamstring injury, didn't come out to bat again.

Bangladesh made 106 in its first innings. Virat Kohli scored 136, for his 27th test hundred, and then declared India's first innings at 347-9 for a lead of 241 runs. The high attendance at Eden Gardens proved the concept to be a success. Additionally, it has opened doors for India to play with the pink ball when they tour overseas, particularly Australia where they refused to play a day night test in 2018. □



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Wilder stops Ortiz in heavyweight title rematch

By TIM DAHLBERG
Associated Press

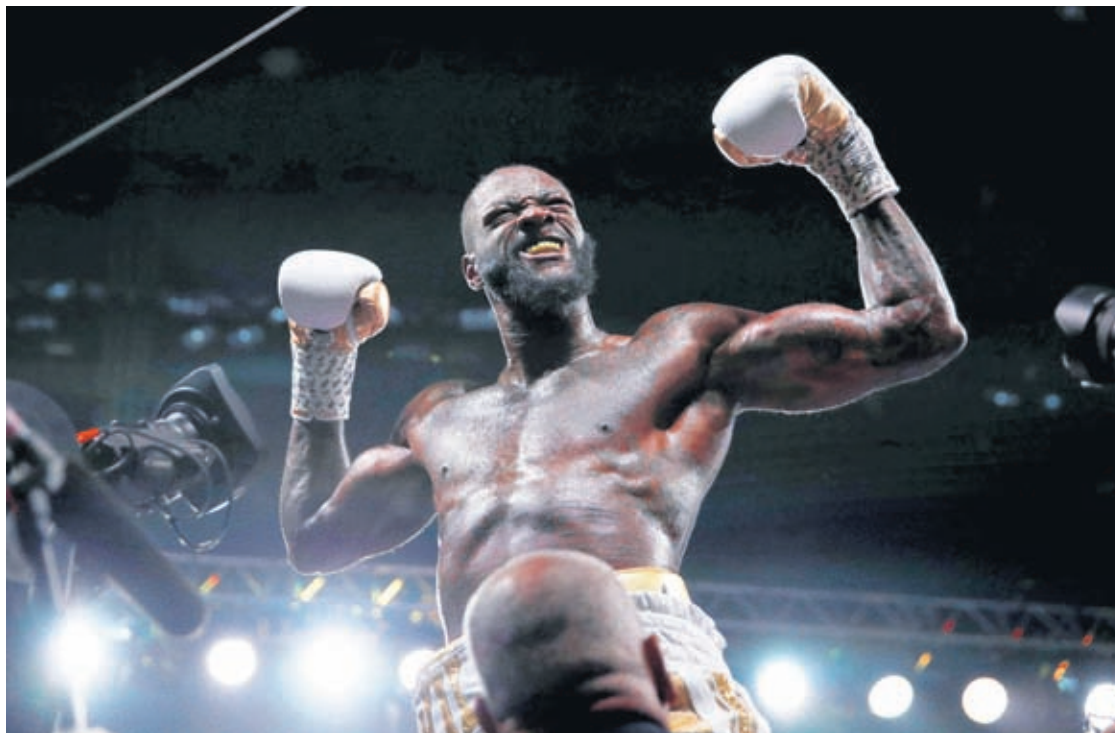
LAS VEGAS (AP) — One rematch down, one to go for Deontay Wilder

Wilder landed a vicious right hand to stop Luis Ortiz in the seventh round Saturday night to retain his heavyweight title and set up a lucrative rematch with Tyson Fury in February.

Wilder's punch came out of nowhere in a fight he had done little in up until that time. It landed flush on the face of Ortiz, who crumpled to the canvas and was unable to get up at the count of 10.

The sudden ending came after a lackluster first six rounds in which Wilder did little. But the devastating power that has gotten him knockouts in all but two of his fights came through again.

"I finally found my measurement and I took the shot," Wilder said. "I had to play around with him. I had to calculate certain moves." The fight was a rematch of a bout last year when Wilder stopped Ortiz on the 10th



Deontay Wilder celebrates after defeating Luis Ortiz in the WBC heavyweight title boxing match Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

round. It set up a Feb. 23 fight against Fury that has already been signed.

Wilder fought cautiously for the first six rounds, finding himself in the hole on the cards of the three ringside judges. Two gave him just one of the six, while a third gave him two rounds. The

Associated Press had Ortiz pitching a shutout.

Wilder began to pick up the pace in the seventh round, then caught Ortiz with the right hand that brought the fight to an end at 2:51 of the round.

"My intellect is very high in the ring and no one gives

me credit," Wilder said. "I think I buzzed him with a left hook earlier in the round and I took it from there." Ortiz (31-2) didn't protest the ending, but said he thought he beat the count. "I was clear headed when I hit the canvas" he said. "When I heard the referee

say seven I was trying to get up but I guess the count went a little quicker than I thought." Wilder (42-0-1, 41 knockouts) displayed the massive power that has made him a force in the heavyweight division, but won no style points in winning the fight. He did little until the big punch that ended the fight, wary of the power that Ortiz showed when he hurt him in their first fight in March 2018.

Wilder made at least \$3 million for the fight, but figures to make much more when he and Fury meet in a rematch of their fight a year ago that ended in a disputed draw. His win helped clarify the top of the heavyweight division, though, which will be sorted out further when Anthony Joshua and Andy Ruiz Jr. meet Dec. 7 in their title rematch in Saudi Arabia.

"Next we have Tyson Fury in the rematch," Wilder said. "Then I want unification. I want one champion, one face and one heavyweight champion — Deontay Wilder." □

Man United concedes in 90th, held 3-3 at Sheffield United

SHEFFIELD, England (AP) — Manchester United conceded a 90th-minute equalizer after rallying from a two-goal deficit to draw 3-3 with Sheffield United in a wild Premier League match on Sunday.

Oli McBurnie's goal required a review by VAR for a possible handball but it was awarded — to loud roars by the home fans at Bramall Lane — to stop Man United climbing to fifth place in the standings.

Having fallen 2-0 down after 52 minutes, Man United scored three goals in a

seven-minute span from the 72nd to go ahead in dramatic fashion. All of those goals were scored by academy graduates, with 19-year-old Brandon Williams and 18-year-old Mason Greenwood netting for the first time in the league before Marcus Rashford completed the remarkable comeback.

Still, the visitors could not hold out and stayed behind Sheffield United, which is sixth in a brilliant first season back in England's top flight. Man United was woeful in the first half, outplayed in

every department and slipping behind to a goal from midfielder John Fleck in the 19th. Lys Mousset then added a second goal for Sheffield United before the hosts started to tire and Man United began attacking with pace.

The future of Man United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is back in renewed focus now that Mauricio Pochettino is on the market following his firing by Tottenham this week, and the nature of this draw might only serve to spark speculation. □



Sheffield United's Oliver McBurnie celebrates after scoring his side's third goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Sheffield United and Manchester United at Bramall Lane Stadium in Sheffield, England, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019.

Associated Press

Isolated Iceland newly vulnerable to computer scams

By EGILL BJARNASON

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP)

— "Hi, I hope you are not busy?"

The treasurer of the Icelandic soccer club Afturelding got the email from his manager late in the afternoon, soon before banks were about to close. The words "Sent from my iPhone" were at the bottom, suggesting urgency, and through a series of exchanges, the manager asked that a quick payment be made. It was a scam, perpetrated from someone posing as the club manager - and part of a sudden rush of on-line fraud that is catching Icelanders unprepared. Online apps have now become good at translating the country's complex language, a version of Old Norse spoken only by about 400,000 people. And the government has lifted limits on money transfers out of the country that had been imposed since the financial crisis. The combination over the past two years has attracted scammers to target a population that has not developed the same habits of caution about online fraud as other such wealthy, high-tech countries.

"The trick is always the same, but the Icelandic gets better and better," said Audur Thorsteinsdóttir, manager of The Icelandic Youth Association, an umbrella organization regularly warning member clubs against fraud emails. Large and small enterprises, from vehicle inspection companies to residents' associations, have been



In this photo taken Monday Oct. 28, 2019, fishmonger Kristjan Asgeirsson is seen at work in Reykjavik, Iceland.

shaken this year by someone posing as the CEO or chairman seeking a swift payment. By using Google Translate or Microsoft's Translator - the two apps that can translate Icelandic - the criminals were able to sound credible, police say.

Known as "CEO fraud" - when criminals pose as high-ranking executives after thoroughly researching the company structure - the scams did not exist at Icelandic workplaces in the early days of online translators. Software offered poor, often comically inaccurate, results: Icelandic for "youth" for example, was translated as meaning "Youtube." The apps have since improved.

"The text has the kind of errors Google Translate

makes," such as awkward capitalization and syntax, said police detective Dadi Gunnarsson. "But it reads remarkably well, and that fools many."

Recent scams have amounted to the largest thefts the island nation has ever seen. Geothermal energy company HS Orka recently lost \$1.5 million and a total of \$13 million has been lost to foreign scammers over the past twelve months, the police estimate.

In another case, a series of promoted ads on social media promised to explain how to bounce back from bankruptcy. The link brought users to a website mimicking a respected business paper, with its trademark pink background. It was a bitcoin

scheme meant to defraud. Icelandic was introduced to Google Translate in 2009, earlier than many other more widely spoken languages as a Reykjavik-born employee at the tech company wanted his mother tongue included as soon as possible. Dozens of students and faculty at Reykjavik University volunteered to help Google gather samples for voice recognition. Still, the translations were incomplete and spotty for many years.

"The learning curve has been steep for Iceland," said Morten Tandle, director of the Nordic Financial Cert, a Norway-based organization coordinating cyber security responses between large companies in the region.

Experts say that as artificial intelligence improved, translation apps only really became good enough at Icelandic around 2018.

That was just months after the government removed limits on the amount of money that could be transferred out of the country that had been imposed since the financial crisis over a decade ago.

It was like foreign scammers had been waiting for the day, police said.

Cases of online fraud began piling up, with the number this year about six times higher than the year before, according to Landsbankinn, a large commercial bank. Victims rarely get their money back.

In most countries, Tandle said, people learn to be cautious online because someone around them has been scammed or hurt by messages with malicious software. The country's isolation from such trends until recently made its sudden exposure all the more painful.

The rule of thumb, experts advise, is to always respond to financial inquiries through a different medium, like replying to an email with a phone call.

Icelanders pride themselves on their sense of community and have one of the highest levels of "social trust" in surveys measuring people's belief in each other and in honesty and integrity.

"Social trust is the desired quality of every society," said Gunnar Helgi Kristinsson, a politics professor at the University of Iceland. □

Associated Press



In this Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019, file photo, Tesla CEO Elon Musk introduces the Cybertruck at Tesla's design studio in Hawthorne, Calif.

Associated Press

Musk touts 146,000 orders for Tesla's electric pickup truck

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Elon Musk says Tesla has received nearly 150,000 orders for its new electric pickup truck since the automaker revealed the futuristic vehicle earlier this week to mixed reviews. The Tesla CEO tweeted Saturday that the company received 146,000 orders for

the wedge-shaped "Cybertruck" since unveiling Thursday night.

Musk said 17% of the orders are for the single-motor model, 42% are for the dual-motor version and 41% are for the tri-motor model. The much-hyped unveiling went off script when its supposedly unbreakable

window glass splintered twice when hit with a large metal ball. Some analysts panned the truck's blocky, angular looks.

Placing an order costs buyers \$100, which Tesla says is fully refundable. Tesla has said the "Cybertruck," which starts at \$39,900, will be in production in 2021. □

5 financial tasks you should tackle by year-end

By LIZ WESTON
Associated Press

A task without a deadline is just wishful thinking. Sometimes, you can get away with procrastinating. If you never get around to alphabetizing your spices, no one's life will change. But putting off some tasks could have a huge impact on loved ones.

The close of the year is a good time to set some firm deadlines to make sure you won't leave a financial mess for people you love if you unexpectedly die or become incapacitated. Consider putting these items on your to-do list with a Dec. 31 due date:

1. CHECK YOUR BENEFICIARIES

If you need convincing that updating beneficiaries is important, consider the case of David Egelhoff, a Washington state man who died two months after his divorce was final in 1994. Because he had not changed his beneficiaries, his life insurance proceeds and pension plan were paid to his ex-wife rather than his children from a previous marriage. The children sued, and the case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled in 2001 that the ben-



This April 2017, file photo provided by NerdWallet shows Liz Weston, a columnist for personal finance website NerdWallet.com.

eficiary designations had to be honored.

You're typically prompted to name beneficiaries when you sign up for a 401(k) or other retirement account. Beneficiaries also are usually required when you buy annuities or life insurance. You often can check and change benefi-

ciaries online, or you may need to call the company to request the appropriate form.

2. REVIEW PAY-ON-DEATH DESIGNATIONS

You may not have been required to name beneficiaries when you opened your checking account or a non-retirement investment

account. Instead, financial institutions may offer a "pay on death" option. This allows you to name a beneficiary who can receive the money directly. Otherwise, the account typically has to go through probate, the legal procedure to distribute your property after you die.

Some states also have "transfer on death" options for vehicles and even real estate. Like pay-on-death accounts, these options allow you to pass property directly to heirs without the potential delays and costs of probate.

Beneficiaries can be added to vehicle registrations in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Vermont and Virginia, according to self-help legal site Nolo. To add or change a beneficiary, you apply for a certificate of car ownership with the beneficiary form.

Transfer-on-death deeds for real estate are available in Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming, according to legal site RocketLawyer. To add or change a beneficiary, the deed must be submitted to the appropriate county recorder. □

Associated Press

Top lawmakers reach agreement on spending as deadline nears

By ANDREW TAYLOR

WASHINGTON (AP) — Negotiations on a package of spending bills to fund the federal government have produced a key breakthrough, though considerably more work is needed to wrap up the long-delayed measures.

Top lawmakers of the House and Senate Appropriations committees on Saturday confirmed agreement on allocations for each of the 12 spending bills, a step that allows negotiations on the \$1.4 trillion budget bundle to begin in earnest to try to pass the measures by a Dec. 20 deadline.

Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., and Rep. Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., announced the agreement on Saturday through aides.

The measures would fill in the details on this summer's hard-won budget and debt deal. The pact is sought by a broad spectrum of GOP defense hawks, Democrats pressing to maintain recent gains in domestic programs, and a dwindling cadre of Washington pragmatists eager to demonstrate that they can make divided government work in an increasingly toxic atmosphere.

The talks come as the Democratic-controlled House is driving toward impeaching President Donald Trump, whose demands for billions of dollars more for additional wall construction along the U.S.-Mexico border have slowed the process. Trump has little interest in the often-arcane appropri-

ations process, other than to obtain wall funding and to boast about record Pentagon funding. The annual spending bills are, howev-

er, a top priority for top lawmakers like Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., who have

wrestled over appropriations for decades. □

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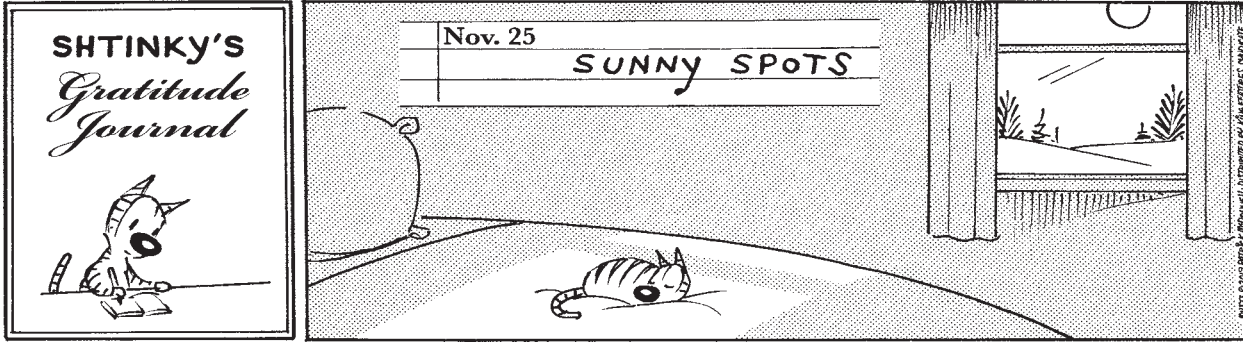
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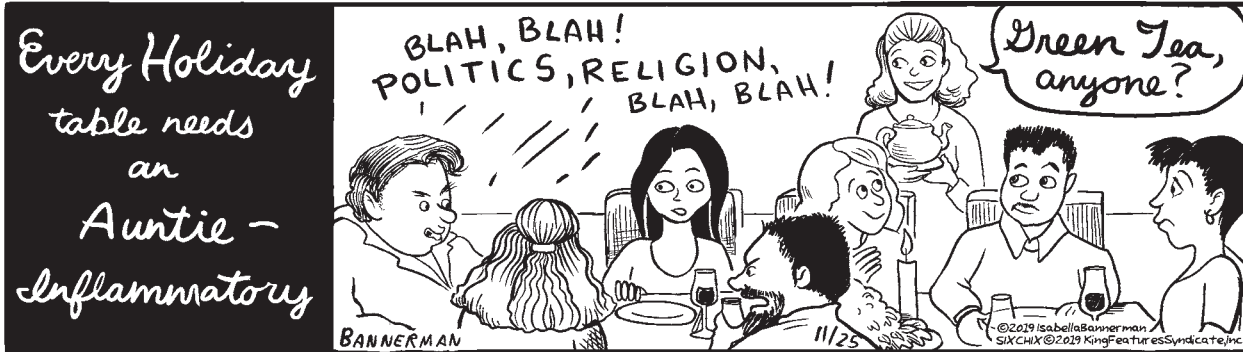
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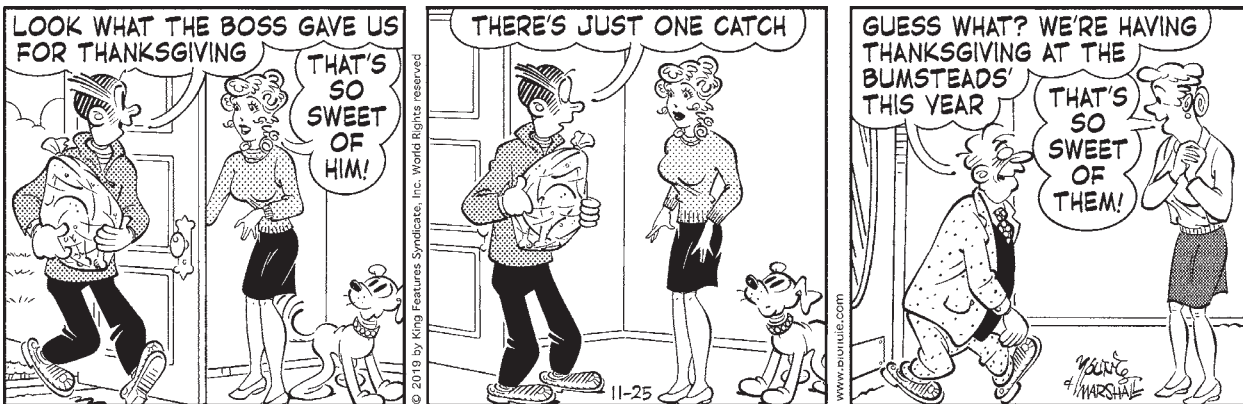
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			6		1			
	7							8
8	1	3	7			6		
4	2				8		6	3
	6	7	4	3	2	1	8	
1	3		5				4	9
		4			3	9	5	1
6							2	
			1		5			

Difficulty Level ★

11/25

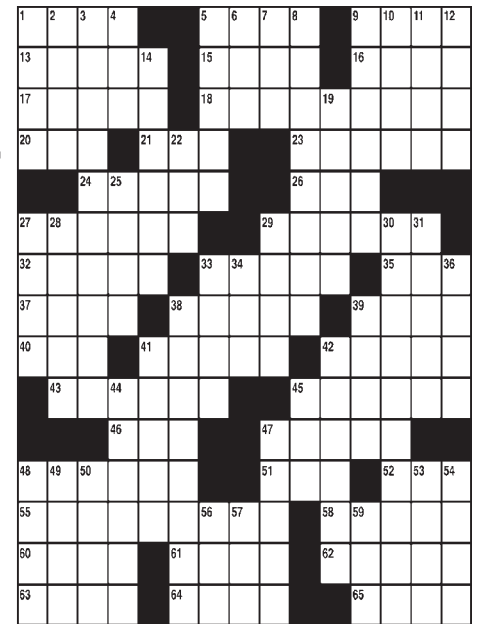
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

6	5	8	1	3	2	9	7	4
7	3	2	4	6	9	1	5	8
9	1	4	8	7	5	3	2	6
4	2	7	6	5	1	8	3	9
1	9	6	3	2	8	7	4	5
5	8	3	9	4	7	6	1	2
8	7	5	2	9	3	4	6	1
2	6	1	7	8	4	5	9	3
3	4	9	5	1	6	2	8	7

ACROSS

- Taverns
- Words of disgust
- Cut into pieces
- Climbing plants
- Baby buggy
- a ball; live it up
- Bolt with a head
- Cops
- Presidential monogram
- Pub order
- What _ kill you makes you stronger
- Petty or Foyt
- Helium or hydrogen
- Scoold
- Feel miffed about
- Presses clothes
- Tree, bush or flower
- Give us this day _ daily bread...
- Small flying bug
- Meanders
- Albacore, for one
- Take a load off
- Marshmallow Easter chicks
- Brings on board
- Respect highly
- Make shiny
- Obi- _ Kenobi
- Wolf cries
- Stern
- Put _ fight; refuse to comply
- Weeding tool
- Unfinished business
- Like umbrella weather
- Lie next to
- Chess piece
- Fox-trot or tango
- New York team
- Hang around
- Middle- _; neither old nor young



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/25/19

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

TAP	REPEL	CROW
OBIS	OVERA	LIME
TUTU	BATON	IPAD
TARDINESS	BEARS	
PINS	BIN	
OCEANS	SHUTTERS	
BRASS	PEERS	RAN
AIRS	LOWLY	BRIE
MEL	TILED	GEES
ASSESSOR	PONDER	
VET	LOBE	
PLEA	EPHESIANS	
QUAD	NAIVE	TOAD
RARE	ELDER	HOLE
SUNS	REELS	KEN

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11/25/19

- crust; elite
- Miracle- _; plant enricher
- Linden of "Barney Miller"
- Tiny bits
- Dairy product
- Show-offs
- Jenn-Air appliance
- _ up; confined
- Piles
- Seashore
- Bruce or Spike
- Female relative
- Big _; large trucks
- Orange Muppet
- Los Angeles team
- Feeding
- Adjusts a grand
- "Trees" or "The Raven"
- Distance across the pool
- Impulsive
- Goes in again
- Plow the soil
- Tranquillity
- Actor Ron

DOWN

- Hawk or heron
- Fervent
- Mississippi steamers
- Lay eyes on

- _ or twice; rarely
- Starry- _; impractical
- _ to worry; words of comfort
- _ double take; look twice
- Drivers' assn.



Carved statues of goddess Neith wearing the crown of Lower Egypt is displayed in Saqqara, south Giza, Egypt. Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019.

Associated Press

Egypt unveils animal mummies of lion cubs, crocodiles, birds

BY SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

SAQQARA, Egypt (AP) —

Egypt's Ministry of Antiquities on Saturday revealed details on recently discovered animal mummies, saying they include two lion cubs as well as several crocodiles, birds and cats. Items from the new find were displayed at a make-shift exhibition at the famed Step Pyramid of Djoser in Saqqara, south of Cairo, near where mummies and other artifacts have been found in a vast necropolis. "We are finding here hundreds of objects," said Antiquities Minister Khaled el-Anany. "All of them are very interesting from the Egyptological point of view to know better this area."

The Saqqara plateau hosted at least 11 pyramids, including the Step Pyramid, along with hundreds of tombs of ancient officials, ranging from the 1st Dynasty (2920 B.C.-2770 B.C.) to the Coptic period (395-642).

Mostafa Waziri, secretary general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, told reporters that local archaeologists found a cache that includes hundreds of mummified animals, birds and crocodiles.

He said that among the mummified animals were two lion cubs and radar scans were needed on three others to determine that the mummies were also lions.

Archaeologists frequently find mummified cats but the recovery of a lion is rare. In 2004, the first lion skeleton was found in Saqqara, revealing the sacred status of the animal in ancient times.

Archaeologists also found wooden and bronze cat statues representing the ancient goddess Bastet and a rare large stone scarab, which Waziri described as "the largest all over the world."

They also displayed two mummies of ichneumon, or the Egyptian mongoose, wrapped in linen bandages and wooden and tin-glazed statuettes of the goddess Sekhmet, represented as a woman with the head of a lioness.

Scholars say Sekhmet (1390-1252 B.C.) was a goddess of war and the destroyer of the enemies of the sun god Re.

There were also strips of papyrus with depictions of the goddess Taweret depicted as a hippopotamus with the tail of a crocodile. Markings on the displayed artifacts show that they date back to the Late Period (664-332 B.C.).

The Saqqara discovery is the latest in a series of new finds that Egypt has sought to publicize in an effort to revive its key tourism sector, which was badly hit by the turmoil that followed the 2011 uprising that toppled longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak. □

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Study: Yellowstone bison mow, fertilize their own grass

MISSOULA, Mont. (AP) — A study of grazing in Yellowstone National Park found that bison essentially mow and fertilize their own food. This allows them to graze in one area for two to three months during the spring and summer while other hoofed mammals must keep migrating to higher elevations to follow new plant growth.

Hundreds of bison grazing in an area stimulates the growth of nutritious grasses, in part because their waste acts as a fertilizer, according to research published this week in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"They add fertilizer through urinating and defecating, they drop nutrients back on the landscape, which are then available to plants," Yellowstone scientist Chris Geremia said Wednesday. "It's almost like the bison become this giant fleet of lawnmowers moving back and forth across the landscape," he said.

When more bison grazed an area more intensely, the area greened up earlier and faster and the grass



In this Aug. 3, 2016 file photo, a herd of bison grazes in the Lamar Valley of Yellowstone National Park in Wyo. In this Aug. 3, 2016 file photo, a herd of bison grazes in the Lamar Valley of Yellowstone National Park in Wyo.

Associated Press

stayed greener and had a higher nutritional quality for a much longer time, Geremia said.

Many other migratory animals in Yellowstone — pronghorn, bighorn sheep, mule deer and elk — do not form these large groups while they migrate and graze, Geremia said.

"Bison don't just move to find food, kind of the classic way that we think of an-

imal migration," Geremia said, "but they create good food by how they move and how they graze."

From 2012 to 2017, researchers fenced off plots of grass along bison migration corridors and compared them to the grazed areas. "The data showed that grasses heavily grazed by bison were more productive compared to exclosures where bison were

not allowed to graze," said Matthew Kauffman, unit leader of the U.S. Geological Survey's Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Wyoming. "The mowed-down forage had higher ratios of nitrogen to carbon, a standard measure of nutritional quality." Trampling and nibbling by the bison kept the plants shorter and denser and

forced the plants to keep growing, giving the bison a steady supply of fresh, nutritious grass. "During most of May and June and part of July ... they are grouped together repeatedly grazing the same area," Geremia said. Bison "are not just moving to find the best food; they are creating the best food," said Jerod Merkle, a professor in migration ecology and conservation at the University of Wyoming. "This happens because bison are aggregate grazers that graze in groups of hundreds or more than a thousand animals."

While the effect of aggregate grazers was known on a small scale, sensors on NASA satellites can detect how grassland dynamics differ between areas that are lightly or heavily grazed by bison, the research showed.

"Our work shows that bison are capable ecosystem engineers, able to modify grasslands in a way that enhances their own grazing," said Mark Hebblewhite, professor of ungulate habitat ecology at the University of Montana. □



This Nov. 5, 2019 photo provided by Oregon State University shows a 78-foot blue whale that washed ashore near Gold Beach, Ore.

Associated Press

Carcass of giant blue whale brought to surface for study

NEWPORT, Ore. (AP) — The carcass of a giant blue whale that's been submerged off the Oregon coast for more than three years was hauled to the surface so it can be reassembled, studied and put on public display, scientists with Oregon State University said Friday. The dead whale, which was about as long as two school buses, washed ashore near Gold Beach, Oregon, in 2015.

It's exceptionally rare to see an intact blue whale carcass wash ashore. The only other documented case happened more than 200 years ago, said Bruce Mate, emeritus director of Oregon State University's Marine Mammal Institute. That's when the Lewis and Clark expedition traded with a local tribe for blub-

ber in 1806 when what is believed to be a blue whale washed ashore near modern-day Cannon Beach, Oregon.

Seeing an opportunity, scientists removed 58 tons of flesh from the 2015 carcass and then placed the bones in the water off Newport, Oregon, so underwater scavengers could pick them clean. The bones were placed in huge nets and submerged with weights in Yaquina Bay with the help of a technical dive team from the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

All 365 of those bones were brought back to land Thursday, including 18-foot-long (5.5-meter-long) mandibles and a skull weighing 6,500 pounds (2,900 kilograms), according to a statement from the university.

The bones will be transported to a nearby warehouse, and the university is asking for local volunteers who can help them remove oil and fat from the bones, Mate said. The process of cleaning and reassembling the giant whale will take about a year, he added.

"We've got a bunch of work to do to get everything cleaned up," Mate said. "It's critical to get the oil out of the bones to help preserve the skeleton and keep it from becoming rancid."

Once reassembled, the skeleton will go on display at the new marine studies building under construction at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport. Scientists in 2015 said it wasn't clear why the whale had died, but it did appear undernourished. □

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Taylor Swift, Lizzo, Eilish set for American Music Awards

By MESFIN FEKADU
Associated Press

All eyes will be on Taylor Swift at the 2019 American Music Awards.

The 29-year-old pop star, who has continued to publicly battle with the men who own her master recordings, is set to take the stage at Sunday's show — a performance she recently said was put in jeopardy by Scott Borchetta and Scooter Braun. Swift could also make history at the AMAs if she surpasses Michael Jackson's record for most wins.

Swift, who has won 23 AMAs, is nominated for five awards and could best the King of Pop's 24 wins.

Swift will also receive the artist of the decade award, to be presented by Carole King, at the show, which airs live on ABC at 8 p.m. EDT.

Swift is nominated for the top prize — artist of the year — along with Ariana Grande, Drake, Halsey and Post Malone, who is the leader with seven nominations.

The second most-nominated acts are Grande and newcomer Billie Eilish, who both scored six nominations each.

Eilish and Lizzo — who earned six and eight Grammy nominations, respectively — will perform at Sunday's AMAs. Other performers include Selena Gomez, Shania Twain, Green Day, Camila Cabello, Toni Braxton, Jonas Brothers, Dua Lipa, Thomas Rhett, Kesha with Big Freedia, Christina Aguilera and A Great Big World.

Malone, who will perform with Travis Scott and Ozzy Osbourne, is nominated for favorite male pop/rock artist, favorite rap/hip-hop artist, favorite rap/hip-hop album for "Hollywood's Bleeding" and favorite rap/hip-hop song for "Wow." His massive hit with Swae Lee, "Sunflower" from the Oscar-winning animated film "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse," is up for favorite pop/rock song and collaboration of the year. Swift will compete for favorite female pop/rock art-



In this Aug. 22, 2019, file photo, singer Taylor Swift performs on ABC's "Good Morning America" at Rumsey Playfield/SummerStage in Central Park, in New York.

Associated Press

ist, favorite adult contemporary artist, favorite pop/rock album for "Lover" and favorite music video for her equal rights anthem, "You Need to Calm Down."

Lizzo, Eilish and Lil Nas X — who also scored six Grammy nominations — are up for new artist of the year along with Ella Mai and Luke Combs.

R&B singer Ciara will host the fan-voted AMAs, to take place at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. Presenters include Regina King, Chadwick Boseman, Jharrel Jerome, Heidi Klum, Megan Thee Stallion, Ben Platt, Billy Porter, Kane Brown, Dan + Shay and Constance Wu. □

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Located at Riu Antillas as formerly The Westin Resort.

Poker Room

Times, actors are changing as 'The Crown' enters 1960s, '70s

By LYNN ELBER

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "The Crown" opens with a clever acknowledgment that time has passed for Queen Elizabeth II and taken with it the Emmy-winning actress who played her in the Netflix drama's first two seasons. In the scene, postage stamp portraits are displayed for the monarch: one with Claire Foy's likeness as the alluring young

queen, the other showing a woman edging toward middle-age mundanity. A subordinate clumsily tries to gloss over the physical differences, but Elizabeth, now embodied by Olivia Colman, will have none of it.

"One just has to get on with it," she says, tartly, advice for herself and the audience that will meet other series newcomers, including Helena Bonham Carter



In this image released by Netflix, Olivia Colman portrays Queen Elizabeth II in a scene from the third season of "The Crown," debuting Sunday on Netflix.

Associated Press

as Princess Margaret and Tobias Menzies as royal spouse Prince Philip, when the 10-episode third season is released Sunday. Josh O'Connor and Erin Doherty join the cast as Charles and Anne, the grown offspring of Elizabeth and Philip.

Peter Morgan, the series' creator and writer, said transparency was the proper approach.

"I thought, let's just get it out in the open. It's always best to, as it were, be honest and direct about it: We're changing cast. This is the new one," he said in a phone interview from London this week, with production for next season's episodes in progress.

There's change as well in swinging 1960s Britain, where this season of "The Crown" begins with the Labour Party narrowly winning power and Harold Wilson (Jason Watkins) installed as prime minister. Cold War rumors that Wilson is a Soviet spy are feverishly circulating, a reminder that the spread of dubious information predates the internet. When the allegation reaches the queen via Philip, she sensibly asks the source. His nonchalant reply: "Friends at the club."

Current events echo elsewhere in "The Crown," including frustration over economic disparity that exposes the monarchy's expensive upkeep to criti-

cism, and fraying international relations, particularly between Britain and the United States under President Lyndon B. Johnson (the explanation offered: Johnson is peeved over Wilson's refusal to support his Vietnam policy). The season ends in the late 1970s. Morgan said he wasn't "engineering" parallels between then and now, but realistically depicting a "country really at its own throat" during that period. "You have the left and the right screaming at each other, and not hearing and not listening to one another," Morgan said. "In a funny way, it was reassuring because what the show has continually reminded me of, again and again and again, is that crisis is the default position rather than harmony. But we project a harmony into the past."

The series artfully weaves together the political and personal. There's a tender scene in which Elizabeth visits a frail Winston Churchill (John Lithgow, who won a 2017 Emmy for the role); a wrenching disaster that tests the queen's capacity to serve as comfort-in-chief, and a national economic crisis that gives second-fiddle Margaret a chance to shine.

Morgan is an esteemed chronicler of authority and privilege, earning Academy Award screenwriting

nominations for "Frost/Nixon," about journalist David Frost's TV interviews with former U.S. President Richard Nixon, and "The Queen," featuring Helen Mirren's Oscar-winning performance as the monarch grappling with the repercussions of Princess Diana's death. In 2017, Morgan earned the British Film Institute's highest honor, the BFI Fellowship. Ben Caron, an executive producer and director for "The Crown," called Morgan's writing "the very best of the best."

"But the edit is when Peter's innate understanding of his own material comes into play. He is brutal with his own work — cutting out whole scenes, speeches, moments — in order to refine, refine, refine," Caron said in an email. "It's a writer's instinct as much as a filmmaker's, this whole idea of, 'Why use 10 words when you can use one?' It often means we lose a lot in the edit, scenes that we've slaved over, beautifully shot work, prized moments, but his instincts are always, always right."

Morgan said he's become comfortable with dramatizing the famous, but admits that finding his approach to the modern genre wasn't easy. His breakthrough came on "The Deal," a British TV movie about Labour colleagues and rivals Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. □

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SUN 2:30 4:55 7:20

PH MON-FRI 6:00 8:30
SAT-SUN 3:30 6:00 8:30

CXC MON-FRI 4:10 6:35 9:00
SAT-SUN 1:45 4:10 6:35 9:00

PBP MON-THU 5:25 7:50
FRI 5:25 7:50 10:15
SAT 3:00 5:25 7:50 10:15
SUN 3:00 5:25 7:50

SENSORY FRIENDLY PRESENTATION
SATURDAY, NOV 23 AT 1:00PM

MON-THU 5:05 7:30
FRI 5:05 7:30 10:00
SAT 2:40 5:05 7:30 10:00
SUN 2:40 5:05 7:30

21 BRIDGES

CHADWICK BOSEMAN | J.K. SIMMONS

PH MON-THU 6:00 8:20
FRI 6:00 8:20 10:40
SAT 3:40 6:00 8:20 10:40
SUN 3:40 6:00 8:20

PH MON-FRI 5:00 7:15 9:30
SAT-SUN 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30

AGALANT!

PBP MON-SUN 8:50

CHARLES ANGELS

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-THU & SUN 8:30
FRI-SAT 8:30 11:10

PBP MON-FRI 4:10 6:45 9:20
SAT-SUN 1:35 4:10 6:45 9:20

FORD v FERRARI

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-FRI 7:50
SAT-SUN 4:35 7:50

PBP MON-SUN 8:40

PLAYING WITH FIRE

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-FRI 6:10
SAT-SUN 3:50 6:10

PBP MON-FRI 4:30 6:40
SAT-SUN 2:20 4:30 6:40

TERMINATOR DARK FATE

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-SUN 9:10

PBP MON-FRI 3:50 6:35 9:30
SAT-SUN 1:05 3:50 6:35 9:30

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Coldplay do a 180-degree turn from arena pop-rock

By **MARK KENNEDY**
Associated Press

Coldplay, "Everyday Life" (Parlophone/Atlantic)

At the end of a year that saw musicians like Niall Horan and Ed Sheeran gingerly dip their toes into other languages, Coldplay have responded: Hold my European beer.

Their new album, "Everyday Life," is so utterly embracing of the world that it has words spoken or sung in Arabic, Spanish, Zulu and Igbo, and even a French verse sung by lead singer Chris Martin.

It's a fluid and experimental 53-minute double album, divided into two halves, Sunrise and Sunset. If on 2015's "A Head Full of Dreams," the band sampled the likes of Barack Obama and a Rumi poem, now they're doubling down.

"Everyday Life" is bursting with idiosyncratic references, ranging from the film "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" to

a Bob Dylan lyric, a novel by Khaled Hosseini, audio of a bullying traffic stop by a cop in Philadelphia, an elegy to Africa, samples from Nigerian composer Harcourt Whyte and jazz legend Alice Coltrane, the South African activist song "Jikelele" and an exuberant tune about Syrian refugees ("Orphans," which features a credit for Martin's teenage son, Moses).

"Orphans" is really the only traditional-sounding Coldplay song. The others are often subdued, instrumental or undercooked. "I haven't finished this one yet" say the liner notes on the stripped-down and fragmentary "WOTW/POTP." It's an astonishing, unsafe step from a band who could have just kept giving us "Something Like This."

There are ambient sounds and snippets from films, including the documentaries "Everything Is Incredible" and "Fela Kuti: Music is the

Weapon." The band even seems to reference themselves ("Boom bo-boom boom" from "X Marks the Spot.") Sometimes it feels less than an album and more like a multimedia project.

Fans will find that, sonically, the band has stepped off the dance floor. The new music is less bombastic and more intimate. "Old Friends" is a mournful ode to loss, while "Daddy" is sung from the heartbreaking perspective of an abandoned child. "Daddy are you OK?/ Look dad we got the same hair." There's even spots of gospel and funk-jazz.

The band is also playing with time, with lyrics and credits seemingly created on an old typewriter and offering old timey band portraits that recall those famous shots of The Band.

There are also political songs — the menacing "Trouble in Town" and the sarcastic "Guns" — but



This cover image released by Parlophone/Atlantic shows "Everyday Life," a release by Coldplay.

Associated Press

most of the album is about faith — all faiths, from East Asian Buddhism to Pakistani Sufism. "How in the world am I going to see/You as my brother not my enemy,"

Martin sings. "Got to keep dancing when the lights go out." In response to an ailing world, Coldplay are opening their arms wide and refusing to stop believing. □

Art show seeks the 'real Moscow' in grim suburbs

By KATE de PURY

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — As sleet falls on a cold November day, communist-era apartment blocks dominating Moscow's suburban skyline look bleak and forbidding. But it's precisely these sprawling city outskirts that are the focus of a major international art exhibition. "Beyond the Center" is staging art events across Moscow's vast urban space starting this fall and culminating in March 2020. With the participation of the Museum of Vienna and the Austrian Cultural Forum, the exhibit uses contemporary art to explore the many hidden facets of life outside the Russian capital's nucleus.

Simon Mraz, Austria's cultural attache to Russia and director of the Austrian Cultural Forum in Russia, says the "real" Moscow, where most of the city's 12.6 million people live, is outside the center.

"They all come to Moscow with some dreams, facing struggles, hoping for a better future. They won't find it in Red Square and definitely not in the Kremlin," Mraz, curator of the exhibition, told The Associated Press. Despite a steep decline in Russia's population, Moscow is growing — fueled by a steady influx of people in search of jobs and a better life. The challenges facing



This photo taken on Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019, shows an air view of buildings in Novo-Molokovo suburb in Moscow, Russia.

Associated Press

modern Russia are reflected in the capital's complex socio-economic layers and ethnic mix from the entire former Soviet Union.

Hailing from southern Russia, self-taught painter Pasmur Rachuko offers an extreme outsider's view of Moscow reality.

Burka-clad figures, policemen and wolves pose in the suburbs, gangsters have angels' wings and young women carrying AK-47 rifles stare out of his canvases. Rachuko depicts himself as "everyman" among this cast of new Russian archetypes.

"These characters are from my personal world, but liv-

ing in Russia today, scrolling through my Facebook feed, I see these symbols all around me," said Rachuko, whose exhibit is at the Gogol Center in central Moscow.

The paintings sparked disapproval from Moscow's culture department, but Rachuko found support from the arts establishment, including theater director Kirill Serebrennikov, himself still under threat from the authorities after a long term of house arrest.

The urban renewal project aimed at impressing World Cup visitors to Moscow in 2018 didn't reach Liublino, a working-class suburb. In this dilapidated industrial zone, the "Museum of Industrial Culture" houses a private collection of discarded objects, amassed by former auto engineer Lev Zheleznyov. It's a social history of more than 70 years of communism, told through ordinary things people recognize from a shared past. "It's a museum of memory. We are not so interested in how a lamp works, more that it was in someone's home," Zheleznyov said. The Soviet legacy is palpable here, Mraz said. "It's where the broken empire has become the reality of life," he said.

Russia's young, urban middle class lives further out, where high-rise blocks jostle with vast highways, evi-

dence of Moscow's rapid post-communist expansion. "Success is the story of how you came to Moscow, found work, got a mortgage and became a real person," says sociologist Natalia Zubarevich. "It's a tough city, totally intolerant and very selfish."

In "Polly wants a cracker," Austrian artist Michele Pagel sees a darker side of Moscow — domestic abuse. Her visceral sculptures, on show in Mraz's apartment, located opposite the Kremlin, seek to bring violence against women back from the peripheral vision of Russian society to its central focus.

Attending the opening, lawyer Alyona Popova campaigns to reverse a 2017 law decriminalizing certain types of domestic

abuse in Russia. According to the advocacy group "You Are Not Alone," an estimated 16 million Russian women suffer domestic violence each year.

A residential complex called Novo-Molokovo, just outside Moscow and still under construction, houses the newest generation of Muscovites. A studio apartment here costs \$95,500.

Curator Elena Ishchenko set art installations inside an "odnushka," or studio apartment.

"We got used to viewing the suburbs as strange, remote areas we don't want to visit," she said. "But when you get out here, thanks to the artist, you see something you wouldn't expect."

ZIP Group constructed a mesh tower to store domestic objects owned by middle class households. Artist Stefan Shubutin imagines breaking down the walls that isolate people living in tiny, high-rise apartments, their goods stored on overflowing balconies.

"The flats are closed, people don't often meet their neighbors," Shubutin said. "But here you can see your neighbor's stuff and ask to borrow a sled, skis, even a washing machine."

Zubarevich, the sociologist, hopes a grassroots civil society will grow in Moscow's residential districts, but it's a social trend the Kremlin watches carefully and any political activism brings repression.

"This city shows what Russia could be," she said. "It's our hope of modernization." □



In this photo taken on Sunday, Nov. 3, 2019, mannequins in Soviet style uniforms displayed in the 'Museum of Industrial Culture' in a dilapidated industrial zone of Moscow, Russia.

Associated Press



In this photo taken on Sunday, Nov. 3, 2019, Soviet-era soda vending machines are on display in the 'Museum of Industrial Culture' in a dilapidated industrial zone of Moscow, Russia.

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